

Israel clamps down on Gaza produce

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian farmers in the occupied Gaza Strip said Israel began restricting sales of their vegetables to the West Bank Wednesday, putting a new economic squeeze on residents. Sallim Abu Salim, a farmer from Dair Al Balah town in the Gaza Strip, said Israeli authorities refused to issue permits for sending Arab produce to the West Bank because the farmers were selling their produce in Israel instead. "I believe that Israelis are trying to impose economic pressures on us," said Abu Salim, who previously headed the Gaza Strip's Vegetable Marketing Society. Israel requires Gaza Strip farmers to obtain special permits to cross an army- manned checkpoint between the Gaza Strip and Israel on their way to the West Bank. Palestinians said the ban would result in serious losses to Gaza Strip farmers who market up to 100 tonnes of their vegetables, or 70 per cent of the Strip's daily output, in the West Bank.

Volume 15 Number 4347

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 22-23, 1990, SHA'BAN 25-26, 1410

S. Arabia, Oman sign border pact

RIYADH (AP) — The rulers of Saudi Arabia and Oman Wednesday signed an agreement demarcating their common border, which had remained officially undefined since colonial times. An official announcement to Riyadh and Muscat said King Fahd and Sultan Qaboos had their signatures to the accord at 4:10 p.m. (1510 GMT) on the basis of the "declared line," that is, the border already roughly existent. It said annexes to the agreement, signed by the interior ministers of the kingdom and the sultanate, defined pasture areas and organized traffic points along the 610-kilometres border. The announcement said the pact would ensure "a basis of equality and mutual interest and the guaranteeing of the rights of sovereignty for each of the two sisterly states." The national news agencies of the two countries quoted the two rulers as describing the event as "a historic day," and stressing "historical brotherly ties" between the two countries. King Fahd additionally paid tribute to the development of ties with Oman in the two decades of Qaboos' rule. The event took place at the northeastern town of Hafr Al Baten, where Qaboos arrived Tuesday for the purpose of finalizing the border accord and for talks with Fahd on a range of issues.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسات الجلدية وعن الأحزاب

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Policeman killed by drug smugglers

AMMAN (Petra) — A policeman was killed Monday in a shootout with drug smugglers, police said. A police spokesman, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that police seized a large amount of hashish which was supposed to be transferred to a neighbouring Arab country. He said that the anti-narcotics department organised an operation to arrest the smugglers flagrant delicto. In the operation, the smugglers started shooting, killing Lieutenant Ahmad Abdul Karim Sakhni, the spokesman said. After the clashes, several smugglers were arrested and a large amount of drugs was seized, he said.

Qian in India

NEW DELHI, (AP) — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen arrived in New Delhi Wednesday to hold talks with Indian leaders on their disputed frontier. Qian is the first senior Chinese official to visit India since Prime Minister V.P. Singh took office 3½ months ago. Qian landed in the western port city of Bombay Tuesday to inaugurate the office of the India-China Chamber of Commerce. He toured the Taj Mahal in Agra Wednesday before coming to the Indian capital.

Iran-Soviet border gates opened

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian-Soviet border gates that blocked a wooden bridge over the Aras River in the city of Jolfa swung open Wednesday for the first time in 73 years, Teheran Radio reported. The state-run radio said the people who poured across the bridge were the first officially sanctioned Soviet Azeri Muslim visitors to the Islamic republic under an agreement to open the border after violent demonstrations in January. The radio report, monitored in Nicosia, said the bridge was unblocked to mark the Muslim new year of 1369 that started Wednesday. The gates will remain open for three more days to commemorate the holiday, it said.

Mongolia elects new leaders

ULAN BATOR (R) — Mongolia's parliament chose its foreign trade minister and the initiator of the country's open door policy as its president Wednesday, shortly after accepting the resignation of former President Zhambyn Batmunkh. Punsalmaigyn Ochirbat, 47, was chosen at the first day of a session that also tapped Starayan Gunjaadorj, an agricultural specialist, to succeed Dumaagijn Sodnom as prime minister. Both the new president and prime minister are members of the ruling Communist Party but apparently do not hold top posts.

Sudan court fails to hold hearing

KHARTOUM (R) — A Sudanese court due to decide whether five Palestinians should die for killing five Britons and two Sudanese in 1988 failed to meet as scheduled on Wednesday, journalists who went to the court said. They said the court did not convene and there was no explanation for the delay. Earlier this month, the court said that after considering the views of relatives of the British victims it would meet on March 21 to decide on the fate of the five Palestinians who had been sentenced to death. Last September, the court left it to the families of the victims to decide whether the five should be executed, pardoned or ordered to pay blood money.

Iran leaves 'U.S., Britain out in cold'

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Wednesday once-hostile nations were racing to befriend Teheran while the United States and Britain were being left out in the cold. In a message marking Iran's new year reported by the official news agency IRNA, Rafsanjani urged people who have left Iran since the revolution of 1979 to return. The economy was moving forward, he said, vowing to press ahead vigorously with a five-year development plan.

CBJ reserves expected to be raised to \$650 million by end of this year

Jardaneh confident of meeting targets

By P.V. Vivekumand
Jordan Times Staff Writer



AMMAN — The present foreign exchange reserve of \$380 million at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) is very encouraging and the Kingdom is confident that it could be raised to \$650 million by the end of the year, Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh said Wednesday.

Jardaneh also said the present exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar was "very realistic and appropriate" and that "there is no demand for any change" in the rate.

Addressing an informal briefing for reporters, Jardaneh said Jordan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were near agreement on finalising the next phase of the Kingdom's economic restructuring programme.

Finalisation of the agreement, which follows an informal visit to Jordan by an IMF delegation earlier this month, will release \$44 million in IMF standby credits to Jordan in four tranches of \$11 million each, he said.

The foreign exchange reserve at the Central Bank stood at \$500 million at the end of 1989, and was reduced to \$380 million by March since the Kingdom had to meet interest in arrears on its external loans, according to the minister. "A substantial amount of interest due in 1989 was not paid since we could not agree on terms of (rescheduling)," he said.

"Now, some of the bilateral agreements have been signed and we have paid all interest in arrears to the London Club" of creditor banks, but there are some outstanding payments to the Paris Club of creditor governments. He did not provide any figures.

The minister voiced confidence that Jordan would meet its target of receiving \$750 million in Arab aid and foreign loans, and be able to raise its reserves to \$650 million by end of the year under a "foreign exchange programme already worked out."

He explained that the Kingdom accepted a minimum of \$360 million in Arab financial assistance — "we are sure that it will be more," he said without giving specific commitments — and the

rest in the form of a \$150 million loan from the World Bank, another loan of \$150 million from Japan and the \$44 million IMF standby credit.

The present foreign exchange reserve of \$380 million includes mandatory deposits at the Central Bank from commercial banks, he said. He did not give any breakdowns, but said the total of such commercial bank deposits was in the range of \$260 million to \$280 million.

During the expected visit of the IMF delegation in April, Jordan and the fund will also prepare a medium-term economic programme lasting until the year 1993, he said.

Jordan has concluded bilateral debt rescheduling agreements with all concerned members of the Paris Club except Britain, Belgium and Sweden, he said, adding that the Kingdom expected to sign a final rescheduling agreement with the London Club in April.

He said Jordan could only hope for marginal relief from the Brady plan of writing-off debts of developing countries since commercial banks accounted for only 13 per cent of its debts.

Also, he added, Jordan could not hope to gain from the Toronto Protocol applicable to poor debtor countries since the Kingdom's per capita income was above the \$800 set as basic qualifying point under the agreement.

(Continued on page 5)

Finance minister braced to defend income tax law on House floor

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

tax from 35 per cent to 40 per cent would result in a JD 8.8 million increase in revenues.

Income Tax Department Director General Salman Tarawneh told the Jordan Times Wednesday that his department collected more taxes than ever due to a boom in exports, an increase in profits by banks and financial companies and a tighter tax collection system.

Tarawneh confirmed that the department collected JD 77.5 million in taxes until March 20 compared with JD 22 million in the same period last year.

He said the reason behind the higher revenues was an increase in industrial exports such as phosphates and more profits for banks and financial institutions. He said that an improvement in tax collection management has also contributed to higher revenues.

Tarawneh said that many industries have entered under the income tax umbrella last year after the expiry of the exemption period granted in 1983 and 1984 as part of the investment incentives law.

He added that the JD 77.5

million revenue figure until March 20 could not be taken as a measure of revenues for the entire year. He explained that most major companies pay most of their taxes in January and February to benefit from the reduction offered for early payment.

Tarawneh said a small part of the increase could be attributed to last year's amendment in the tax law (article 40) which he said was enacted only as of Nov. 1, 1989.

He said he expected an increase in total tax revenues over an above the JD 100 million projected in the 1990 national budget. Jardaneh said the figure could reach JD 120 million.

Tarawneh refused to comment on Jardaneh's estimation that the treasury would suffer a JD 20 million loss if the finance committee's amendments were to be endorsed by the House.

Last Sunday, the House decided to resume discussions of the Finance Committee's amendment after Jardaneh said the amendments would result in a wider budget deficit and higher custom duties to compensate for the loss.

The minister told reporters the government plans to increase income and consumption tax rather than custom duties to establish a base for the Kingdom's economy in the 1990s.

"There is too much dependence on customs," Jardaneh said. "We have to depend more on income and consumption tax."

Jardaneh, who will address the House today to argue against the Finance Committee's amendment, said the government's proposal to increase corporate

Kohl sponsors East German coalition talks in Bonn

BONN (Agencies) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl was discussing German unification Wednesday night with East German conservative leaders who won a resounding victory in their country's first free elections.

Kohl is anxious to make good his promises to East German voters during the election campaign that Bonn would act swiftly to improve their lives by introducing its powerful currency and extending its welfare system to East Germany.

"We must not disappoint the expectations of the citizens and voters of East Germany. The confidence and trust people have put in us and our policies must be justified," Kohl said this week.

Government sources said Kohl's late-night talks in Bonn with East German Christian Democratic (CDU) leader Lothar de Maiziere and other

conservative politicians were to concentrate on the new laws needed to implement currency, economic and social union.

The CDU heads the three-party Alliance for Germany, which won 48 per cent of the vote in Sunday's East German elections, and de Maiziere is likely to become prime minister.

Bonn expects the new East German government to announce a comprehensive legislative programme in its first statements of policy, probably at the beginning of April.

The CDU package would include protection of private property and investments, and freedom to start new businesses as well as changes in the tax system and trade union legislation, the government sources said.

CDU economic adviser Gerd Koenig said that if the laws all go

through on schedule, preparations for introducing the West German mark as legal tender in East Germany could start in May.

But the alliance would need the backing of East Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD), which has rejected coalition overtures.

NATO role

Most Warsaw Pact countries support NATO membership for a united Germany, leaving the Soviet Union virtually isolated among its allies, a senior U.S. official said Wednesday.

The official, accompanying U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at Namibia's independence celebrations, said most of the Soviet Union's East Bloc allies were clearly opposed to the Kremlin position that a unified Germany should be neutral.

(Continued on page 5)

through on schedule, preparations for introducing the West German mark as legal tender in East Germany could start in May.

But the alliance would need the backing of East Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD), which has rejected coalition overtures.

NATO role

Most Warsaw Pact countries support NATO membership for a united Germany, leaving the Soviet Union virtually isolated among its allies, a senior U.S. official said Wednesday.

The official, accompanying U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at Namibia's independence celebrations, said most of the Soviet Union's East Bloc allies were clearly opposed to the Kremlin position that a unified Germany should be neutral.

(Continued on page 5)

Panels to probe 9 cases of corruption

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government, acting on a request from Parliament, has referred nine cases of corruption to the public prosecutor Wednesday to investigate possible corruption, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Justice Minister Yousef Mbeideen was quoted as saying by Petra a judicial inquiry would start Thursday.

Five committees, each with a judge helped by officials from relevant ministries, the Audit Bureau and the Central Bank of Jordan, would examine the contracts.

The 80-seat Lower House of Parliament, vowing to fight corruption and economic crime, referred the cases with supporting documents to Prime Minister Mu'ad Badran for action after a closed session Tuesday.

Namibia is free

WINDHOEK (R) — Namibia broke the shackles of more than a century of colonial rule Wednesday when tens of thousands of joyous people danced in the streets to usher in the country's independence.

The world's newest nation, which became the 156th member of the United Nations, launched a massive street party to mark the end of colonial domination, first from imperial Germany and since 1945 from neighbouring South Africa.

President Sam Nujoma and his cabinet were installed in solemn ceremonies by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, whose peacekeeping forces were instrumental in securing a peaceful transition to independence.

He said Jordan could only hope for marginal relief from the Brady plan of writing-off debts of developing countries since commercial banks accounted for only 13 per cent of its debts.

Also, he added, Jordan could not hope to gain from the Toronto Protocol applicable to poor debtor countries since the Kingdom's per capita income was above the \$800 set as basic qualifying point under the agreement.

(Continued on page 5)

100 Palestinians treated after clashes with Israelis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

More than 100 Palestinians were treated for tear-gas inhalation and minor wounds after a clash with Israeli soldiers Wednesday, a hospital in the occupied West Bank said.

They were also demanding that classes start one hour earlier to match the Palestinian "summer time" called by the leaders of the 27-month-old uprising in the occupied territories.

Elsewhere in Gaza, soldiers shot and wounded five Palestinians during stone-throwing incidents, hospitals reported.

The army and witnesses gave conflicting accounts Wednesday on the 10-year-old boy's death in Tulkarm.

The army said in a statement that stones were thrown at soldiers on patrol and that they fired rubber bullets to disperse the youths, and he was later reported to have died, the army said.

Relatives told reporters, however, that Shukri Barakat was standing in the doorway of his home when he was hit with a bullet apparently fired from a nearby rooftop army post. They said they saw, on stones thrown.

The incident was being investigated by military police, the army spokesman's office said.

Ambassador denies Sweden launching peace initiative

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Swedish Ambassador Lars Lonnback Wednesday denied reports that a peace initiative for the Middle East was being launched by Sweden.

"Sweden is not working with any Middle East peace initiative now, and the reports carried by the press are not true," Lonnback told the Jordan Times.

News reports carried by the Saudi newspaper Al Yawm said Tuesday that Sweden would announce its own peace initiative for the region, adding that Swedish officials had contacted officials in Cairo and Amman to brief them on the content of the proposals.

Perez, 66, already has the largest bloc in the Knesset, or parliament — 39 Labour legislators. The largest rival is his former coalition partner, the right-wing Likud with 35 seats.

Likud campaigned to block Perez from forming a new government, calling his plan for peace talks with Palestinians a threat to Israel's existence.

Perez has three weeks to find coalition partners giving him the needed 61 seats.

Caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, turned down an overture from Perez to join a new administration headed by Labour, and his supporters went on the offensive.

"We certainly have in Likud a very deep concern that the direction the Labour Party is taking will bring about the creation of a Palestinian state, which we see as a disaster for our existence," said Shamir's transport minister, Moshe Katsav.

"We can't be partners in a government led by Labour," Katsav told Israel Radio.

State Department reports PLO sticking to its pledge

WASHINGTON (R) — The Bush administration told Congress Tuesday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had lived up to its 1988 pledge to renounce terrorism.

But the administration expressed concern about violent actions taken by PLO constituent groups and the organisation's failure to dissociate itself from them.

The findings were issued in a State Department report to Congress required under a law enacted last year stemming from the Reagan administration's reversal of long-standing U.S. policy not to talk to the PLO.

That action followed a statement by PLO leader Yasser Arafat renouncing terrorism.

"It is the administration's position that the PLO has adhered to its commitments undertaken in 1988 to renounce terrorism," the report said.

It said actions undertaken by Damascus-based PLO groups had been a problem but added: "We have no evidence that these actions were authorised or approved by the PLO executive committee or Arafat personally."

The State Department said the loosely-structured PLO suffered from deficiencies in controlling

all of its constituent groups, especially those that opposed aspects of current PLO policy and carried out cross-border attacks.

"We are disappointed that the PLO has not found a more authoritative way to distance or dissociate itself from activities undertaken by constituent groups acting independently without the organisation's official sanction," the report said. "We think it important they do so."

It said the United States had told the PLO it would hold the organisation to its commitments and would continue to examine all incidents on a case-by-case basis.

Of almost 30 border and rocket attacks made against Israel by Palestinian groups since December 1988, the report said, nine had involved PLO constituent groups.

Although the United States had no evidence they were ordered by Arafat or the PLO Executive Committee, "we have made it clear to the PLO that

these activities raise serious questions about the PLO's commitment to renounce terrorism," the report said.

It also said that the United States was concerned about the public pronouncements of the PLO, its constituent groups and individual leaders.

"We continue to impress on PLO leaders that they must speak with one voice of their intent to seek a peaceful, negotiated solution of the Arab-Israel conflict," it said.

Israel's army chief of staff, contradicting his government's diplomatic offensive against the PLO, said Tuesday the main PLO faction was not launching guerrilla attacks against Israel.

Israeli officials have urged leaders in the United States and Europe to cut ties with the PLO.

But participants in a meeting of parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee quoted Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron as saying:

"Arafat's Fatah (movement) is not operating against Israel from Lebanon or from other regions outside the frontiers of the state."

Fatah is the mainstream PLO group led by Arafat.

Qadhafi calls for Islamic boycott of U.S., allies

ROME (AP) — Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi called for a Muslim economic against the United States, Britain and West Germany and said no Islamic country should have diplomatic ties with them, according to a reported Tuesday.

Libya has said it suspects the United States and West Germany, along with Israel, were behind last Wednesday's fire at a Libyan plant that allegedly produced poison gas. All three countries have denied any involvement.

In Saudi Arabia, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) declared full solidarity with Libya and strongly denounced what it called threats and pressure against Tripoli.

"Libya has every right to equip itself with the means that will ensure its economic and social progress," the 46-member organisation said in a statement. It said the Rabta fire was of "doubtful origin."

Qadhafi's remarks, carried by the official Libyan News Agency (JANA), made no mention of the fire. The report said Qadhafi accused the United States and its allies of conducting a campaign of subversion against Islamic countries.

It quoted Qadhafi as saying there should be no U.S., British or West German embassies in any Islamic state.

Libya has diplomatic relations with West Germany, but the United States and Britain severed ties with Libya years ago.

Qadhafi was quoted as saying the Muslim World is facing a historic struggle with a "hostile satanic force" and that "no Islamic country should establish relations with the U.S. government and its allies. Rather, we should have a decisive and perpetual boycott against them."

The Agency also said Qadhafi urged Muslims "to work toward withdrawing the Arab oil money piled up in the Jewish banks in America," and called such an effort "a sacred battle."

On March 11, the Algerian evening daily Horizons quoted the U.N. chief as saying the time was right to end the dispute.

"The international and regional climate has never been so favourable for a just and honourable solution to the Western Sahara question," Perez de Cuellar told the newspaper.

U.N. officials say the plant is now inoperable.

JANA quoted Qadhafi as saying no ship or plane from the United States, Britain or West Germany should be allowed in "the land of Islam." He appealed to Islamic countries to "boycott completely the forces of evil of this planet."

The United States attacked Libya targets three times in the 1980s, twice shooting down Libyan fighter planes and in 1986 bombing Tripoli and Benghazi to retaliate for what it called Libya's support of "international terrorism."

Some of the U.S. warplanes that attacked Libya in 1986 came from bases in Britain.

U.S. official softens tone on Israeli settlements

WASHINGTON (R) — The Bush administration, apparently softening its tone on Israeli settlements, said Tuesday it would support a plan to guarantee \$400 million in loans for Israel to build housing for Soviet Jewish immigrants if it received adequate assurances on the use of the funds.

Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said the United States would approach the issue with "understanding" in negotiations with the Israelis.

Asked what kind of assurances would be acceptable, Eagleburger said he could not be specific. But he said the United States would approach the issue with "understanding" in negotiations with the Israelis.

His remarks were notably softer than earlier statements by President George Bush linking the loan guarantees to new Jewish settlements.

Secretary of State James Baker had said the guarantees were conditional on no settlements being built in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, regardless of whether U.S. loan guarantees were involved.

Bush, in response to a question in Palm Springs, California, on March 3, included settlements in Arab Jerusalem as well as the West Bank.

Bush's statements aroused a furor in Israel, and helped provoke an Israeli government crisis that led to the collapse of the Likud-Labour coalition.

Eagleburger, apparently seeking to calm the controversy, said the administration would support

the housing guarantees "on the assumption we could obtain adequate assurances from the government of Israel on the use of these funds."

Asked what kind of assurances would be acceptable, Eagleburger said he could not be specific. But he said the United States would approach the issue with "understanding" in negotiations with the Israelis.

On a related issue, Eagleburger described as "probably counterproductive" a proposal to have the Senate state that any eased U.S. trade with the Soviet Union should be tied to Moscow's allowing direct flights to take Soviet Jews to Israel.

Senator Arlen Specter said Moscow was yielding to Arab pressure in refusing to allow such flights. His proposed non-binding Senate resolution would link the issue to the provision of so-called most-favoured nation (MFN) treatment to Soviet exports.

Eagleburger said the issue had been raised with Soviet officials without success but added that to specifically link MFN with direct flights would make it more difficult for Moscow to change its position.

Specter disclosed that all 100 senators had signed a letter to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev urging him to change his position. An aide said the letter had been sent several weeks ago.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Turkey recognises Namibian state

ANKARA (R) — Turkey Wednesday recognised the new state of Namibia, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "Turkey is pleased to recognise the Namibian state and has decided to establish diplomatic relations," spokesman Murat Sonar said. He said Turkey, one of the sponsors of the 1960 U.N. resolution against colonialism, had always supported the peoples of Africa in their struggle for independence.

Soviets make new Afghan proposals

HELSINKI (AP) — The Soviet Union brought new proposals to U.S.-Soviet talks on Afghanistan opening Wednesday, the chief Soviet negotiator said. The United States has been seeking to dislodge the Soviet-backed government in Kabul in a series of discussions on regional issues. "After our last meeting with the Americans, we have a package of new proposals which we have not yet discussed with them," said Yuri Alekseyev, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle Department, on national Finnish radio. Alekseyev did not elaborate on the proposals, but the radio quoted Western diplomatic sources in Pakistan as saying that breakthrough was expected in the Helsinki negotiations. The two sides previously met last August in Stockholm. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly headed the U.S. delegation. The venue of the talks was kept secret.

Rajavi vows to overthrow Iranian regime

BAGHDAD (R) — Iran's main opposition group said Wednesday that the "medieval mullahs" who rule the country were deeply unpopular and it vowed to overthrow them within a year. "The National Liberation Army (NLA) will undoubtedly arise at the appropriate moment and put an end to the shameful rule of the medieval mullahs," said Massoud Rajavi, leader of the Iraq-based Mujahideen Khalq, in a speech marking the start of the Iranian new year. The NLA, the armed forces of the Mujahideen, launched several raids into Iran during its eight-year war with Iraq that ended with a ceasefire in August 1988. "The Iranian people view the (ruling) gang of mullahs as totally illegitimate because of their numerous crimes, mass killings, warmongering and terrorism," said Rajavi in his speech at an NLA camp, relayed in English to Reuters in Baghdad. Many of Iran's senior leaders are clerics, including Ali Khamenei, spiritual successor to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini who led Iran from its 1979 Islamic revolution until his death last June. Rajavi, saying the Iranian government would fall within a year, urged the United Nations to expel it and called for an international oil and arms embargo against Iran.

4 killed in clashes in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Four people were killed and nine were wounded in clashes between security forces and Kurdish demonstrators in a southeast Turkey town near the Syrian border, state-run radio said Wednesday. It said the town of Cizre, 10 kilometres from Syria in a region where Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) guerrillas are active, was under curfew after Tuesday's violence. Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu said Tuesday night that demonstrators fired long-range rifles at police commandos trying to break up the illegal rally. "Four of our citizens have been killed and nine were wounded," the radio quoted Aksu as saying. He did not identify the dead. The radio said 68 people were detained and that Aksu was to visit Cizre, which was now quiet, Wednesday.

Cairo residents forced to use sedatives

CAIRO (R) — More than half of Cairo's 12 million residents use sleeping pills and other sedatives to escape the city's deafening noise, the semi-official Al Ahram newspaper said Wednesday. The incessant blare of car horns and loudspeakers at mosques has forced 62 per cent of the population to use pills to get to sleep, the paper quoted an official survey as saying. The noise has inflicted high blood pressure on a further 33 per cent of the residents, it said. Motorists use car horns instead of traffic lights in streets choked with traffic and plagued by one of the world's most chaotic driving styles. Loudspeakers broadcast the five-times-a-day call to prayer, each mosque slightly out of time with the other. All that mingles with the sounds of Arabic and Western music from weddings and parties.

Sudanese rebels deny army report

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Sudanese rebels denied Wednesday that the army had killed 335 rebel soldiers in a fierce battle to recapture the town of Rumbek. A spokesman for the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Addis Ababa said the army statement was a pure lie. Rumbek, 280 kilometres northeast of the southern regional capital Juba, had been in government hands since 1986, he said. SPLA forces withdrew from the town at the end of 1985 and claims of fierce fighting there were "pure fantasy," the spokesman said. The Sudanese army statement Tuesday said 19 army soldiers were killed in a battle for Rumbek Monday. It said the army killed 335 rebels and wounded hundreds.

2 Italians escape Somalia with plane

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Two Italians from Somalia are being held for investigation after they flew a single-engine plane without advance notice into Bahrain, diplomatic sources reported Wednesday. The sources, who could not be named under standing rules, said the Italians had apparently stolen the plane which they flew from Somalia about a week ago. Suspicions hovered around some business frictions with the Somali authorities, according to the sources.

Sri Lanka-Arab ties to improve

COLOMBO (R) — The closure of an office representing Israeli interests in Sri Lanka will pave the way for better political and economic ties with the Arab World, government politicians and diplomats said Wednesday.

Parliamentary Speaker Hanifa Moammar said the closure would help strengthen contacts with Arab countries.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa Tuesday ordered the closure of the Israeli interests office in line with a pledge he made

to ousting.

But after becoming prime minister of a broad "national unity" government with Shami's rightist Likud Party following an inconclusive 1984 general election, Peres attained the highest popularity rating of any recent Israeli premier.

Peres was born on Aug. 16, 1923, in Volozhin in what was then the Polish province of Novogrodek and is now part of the Soviet Union. His family emigrated in 1934.

An articulate if uninspiring speaker, Peres was groomed for leadership by Israel's first leader David Ben-Gurion but was overshadowed by the pioneers and war heroes who dominated the Labour Party.

Having finally gained office in 1984, he agreed to a unique rotation arrangement with Shami, who became foreign minister, under which they would swap jobs in October 1986.

Despite coalition feuding, he brought the bulk of Israeli troops in Lebanon home in June 1985 and cut annual inflation from 444.9 per cent in 1984 to under 20 per cent in 1986.

On the debit side, he shared responsibility for security scandals during his term, particularly the arrest of U.S. navy analyst Jonathan Pollard as a spy for Israel.

But an opinion poll in mid-1986 found Peres the most popular prime minister since it began regular surveys in 1976.

Sacked by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir last week for pressing for Israeli-Palestinian talks, Peres may now have the chance to achieve one of the main goals that has eluded him — a breakthrough in Middle East peace.

Peres immediately pledged Tuesday night to work towards the first-ever peace talks with Palestinians in Cairo, proposed by the United States to help end the 27-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

"We shall reply affirmatively to the proposal and in the wake of this we hope to meet and arrange the talks in Cairo," Peres told reporters.

His failure to win four elections since 1977 has raised doubts about his leadership ability.

His party rival, the hawkish Yitzhak Rabin, once labelled Peres the "indefatigable schemer" for his political man-

oeuvre.

Dr. Ahmad Al Naqouri (—)
Al Sharaf's pharmacy (962)286

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Tel Aviv Tel Fik 661111
15:30 La Chance et chansons 661111
15:30 News in French 661111
15:30 Documentary 661111
15:30 News in Arabic 661111
15:30 A Day in the World 661111
21:10 News in English 661111
22:00 News in English 661111
22:30 Feature film: "A Time to Love and Time to Die"

PRAYER TIMES
04:16 Fajr (Sunrise) Dubai
05:34 Dhuhr
11:43 Asr
17:51 Magrib
19:49 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieqi

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

UNUSUAL WEATHER

Unstable weather conditions will prevail making it partly cloudy with possible thunder showers, especially in the eastern and southern parts of the country. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with a chance for scattered showers and winds will be southwesterly fresh and sea rough.

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 660341

Deserts 3 / 16

Jordan Valley 10 / 23

MIN./MAX. TEMP.

Amman 6 / 15

Aqaba 15 / 25

Deserts 3 / 16

Jordan Valley 10 / 23

HOURLY FORECAST

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 856390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Police Complaints 661176

Water Conservancy Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

ACC chambers of industry to discuss cooperation, integration

By Ziyad Al Shiloh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—Jordan is taking part in a meeting of the federations of chambers of industry in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which will open in Sanaa, the North Yemeni capital, Thursday.

Issues related to industrial and economic integration among the four-member states, Jordan, Iraq, North Yemen and Egypt, will be reviewed at the four-day meeting, which is expected to conclude an agreement for the establishment of an industrial holding company with \$10 million capital.

The delegates will discuss the projected company's statutes and draw up the final version of the agreement. The company will organise the financing of various joint industrial schemes within the ACC group.

The delegates will review the 12 agreements signed by the ACC heads of state in Sanaa and the 11 accords signed by the ACC leaders at the Amman summit, with

special focus on economic cooperation," according to Khalid Abu Hassan, chairman of the board of directors of the Amman Chamber of Industry, who will head the Jordanian delegation to the meetings in Sanaa.

The four delegations, he said, will set up a technical committee which will be entrusted with studying joint investment projects in industrial fields.

Abu Hassan said that cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the question of holding a regional symposium on cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Organisation (UNIDO) will be among the topics on the agenda.

He said that a report on the ACC's activities during the past year, and plans for 1990 and 1991 will be reviewed at the meeting.

According to Abu Hassan, the delegations will also discuss coordination within the ACC states in land, air and sea transport which can help promote ACC integration.



KARAMAH BATTLE MARKED: Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fahd Abu Taleb attended Wednesday a celebration held by the Armed Forces to mark the 22nd anniversary of the Battle of Karamah. The celebration was held at the Karamah Martyrs Monument. The celebration was

attended by senior Armed Forces officers. Another celebration was held at the Hashemite Brigade to mark the brigade's 39th anniversary. Abu Taleb also attended the ceremony and toured a military exhibition (Petra)

Cropping pattern not feasible in Jordan Valley, says AMO

AMMAN (Petra) —

A study prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) showed that the application of the cropping pattern in the Jordan Valley region resulted in an annual decline by JD 35 million in the overall income of Jordanian vegetable and cereal producers.

"If farmers been allowed to grow crops their way, their income would have been increased by 75 per cent," the study said.

The question of cropping patterns was one of several issues

discussed at a two-day symposium held earlier this month in Amman during which the subject of working out a national agricultural marketing strategy was

The study has called for the amendment of the AMO law issued in 1986 in order to give the organisation wider authority and responsibilities in the field of marketing the country's agricultural produce.



A rescue operations exercise mounted by civil defence personnel under way at a new school opened Wednesday at Sahab (Petra photo)

Civil Defence Department opens training school in Sahab

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) Wednesday opened a special training school which will graduate officers to carry out civil defence duties.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masa'deh opened the school at the Sahab Industrial City, southeast of Amman, and later inspected display of equipment used in civil defence operations.

"The school will train students in rescue, first aid, public safety precautions and driving heavy machinery among other duties required by the CDD," according to Major-General Aif Al Ghoul, the CDD director, in an address

at the official ceremony.

"Training is the best means of ensuring the safety of citizens and safeguarding their property," said Ghoul.

"Before the school was established, training used to be conducted in different CDD centres around the country under the supervision of the CDD headquarters in Amman," added Ghoul. He said that once the school becomes operational, it will graduate qualified officers for civil defence operations, leaving the CDD headquarters with the task of planning and preparing the courses and deciding on means of promoting CDD work

in general.

Ghoul thanked several Jordanian organisations for their financial assistance. He also thanked the director of the Sahab Industrial City for providing an appropriate piece of land for setting up a training field for the CDD officers adjoining the new school.

After inspecting display of different equipment, the minister watched a rescue operation in which CDD officers evacuated people caught in a fire in one of the residential blocks.

Masa'deh also watched a fire-fighting operation on a vehicle that was ablaze following a road accident.

Accounting conference concludes

AMMAN (J.T.) — The second Arab International Accounting Conference ended Wednesday.

Delegates to the conference, organised by the Arab Thought Forum and the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA), discussed the question of providing proper qualification through training to auditors and accountants, who can play a leading role in economic development, according to Talal Abu Ghazaleh, the conference chairman.

Abu Ghazaleh said that the delegates emphasised the question of linking matters related to financing and implementing development schemes related to financial and cost accountancy.

"Internationally accepted principles in accountancy were among the topics discussed. The delegates stressed their importance in promoting trade and investments," Abu Ghazaleh added.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, announced Tuesday at the opening session Jordan will recognise certificates awarded by ASCA which organises training and examinations for accountants from the Arab World.

Attending the session were delegations from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and North Yemen.

Two new CSCC branches to serve north and south

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Consumer Corporation (CSCC) Wednesday opened two of its branches in the northern town of Deir Abi Saeed and in the southern town of Qaser, near Karak.

CSCC Director-General Mohammad Al Naser said that altogether 12 branches will be opened before the end of 1990 to offer services to the largest number of government employees and their families.

Referring to a recent government decision to raise the value of produces to be marketed at the CSCC markets in the Kingdom from JD 4.5 million to JD 6.5 million, Naser said the decision will boost the corporation's activity.

Referring to a recent government decision to raise the value of produces to be marketed at the CSCC markets in the Kingdom from JD 4.5 million to JD 6.5 million, Naser said the decision will boost the corporation's activity.

Referring to a recent government decision to raise the value of produces to be marketed at the CSCC markets in the Kingdom from JD 4.5 million to JD 6.5 million, Naser said the decision will boost the corporation's activity.

Referring to a recent government decision to raise the value of produces to be marketed at the CSCC markets in the Kingdom from JD 4.5 million to JD 6.5 million, Naser said the decision will boost the corporation's activity.

Referring to a recent government decision to raise the value of produces to be marketed at the CSCC markets in the Kingdom from JD 4.5 million to JD 6.5 million, Naser said the decision will boost the corporation's activity.

Referring to a recent government decision to raise the value of produces to be marketed at the CSCC markets in the Kingdom from JD 4.5 million to JD 6.5 million, Naser said the decision will boost the corporation's activity.

Referring to a recent government decision to raise the value of produces to be marketed at the CSCC markets in the Kingdom from JD 4.5 million to JD 6.5 million, Naser said the decision will boost the corporation's activity.

Referring to a recent government decision to raise the value of produces to be marketed at the CSCC markets in the Kingdom from JD 4.5 million to JD 6.5 million, Naser said the decision will boost the corporation's activity.

Dughmi, Swiss envoy discuss cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Switzerland's Ambassador to Jordan Dr. Dina Sciolli met Wednesday with Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughmi to discuss Jordanian Swiss cooperation in environment and ways to promote income-generating projects in rural areas in Jordan.

The ambassador told the minister that a balance of 40 million Swiss francs of an original soft loan offered to Jordan two years ago was available to the Jordanian

government to use in various projects designed to protect the environment.

Only one third of a 60 million Swiss francs loan offered to the Kingdom was used here in development schemes.

The ambassador and the minister discussed cooperation in halting desertification and disposing of waste.

The ambassador said that Jordan can benefit from Switzerland's experiments in this regard.

EC, resources authority sign project agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community (EC) and the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) have signed a project agreement, under which the EC will provide a grant of ECU 1 million (JD 0.8 million) for the authority's economic geology project.

The grant agreement was signed at the Ministry of Planning Wednesday by EC Head of Delegation in Amman Christian Falikowski, and Minister of Planning Avni Al Masri.

The project, with the help of European institutions, will probe the best means to exploit the economic potential of Jordan's non-oil mineral resources, such as ornamental stones and copper.

Jordan's exploited mineral resources are limited to phosphates, potash and quarrying, which account for 10.5% of GDP and 36% of exports. The economic geology project aims at pinpointing other mineral deposits and determining their value and potential, both for locally used raw materials and for exports.

The NRA has conducted geological studies that indicate the presence of a wide range of mineral deposits with a commercial value that have yet to be assessed in technical and economic terms.

The agreement signed by the EC and the NRA will provide for further studies to build upon the existing data in three phases:

1. Quarry management and marketing of ornamental stones. The 10-month study will focus on marble, granite and travertines, and will provide European experts in marketing and quarry management.

2. Copper prospects of Wadi Araba. This 11-month study will investigate the feasibility of, and techniques for copper mining in Wadi Araba, and will provide experts in mining and minerals economy.

3. Geochemical prospection of Aqaba/Araba complex. The 23-month study will target sulphide metals, rare earths and precious metals in the geochemical prospection of the Aqaba/Araba.

In addition, NRA staff will benefit from specialised seminars and training in Jordan and Europe and post-graduate education to study appropriate minerals as economics and related subjects.

It is expected that the project will result in an increase in Jordan's mining output, a greater raw material self-sufficiency, and stimulation of industrial activity at all levels, including village-based artisans.

Consultancy tenders are currently under evaluation by the NRA and a contract is expected to be signed in the coming weeks.

Yarmouk holds seminar on Soviet Jews

IRBID (Petra) — Three Jordanians participated Wednesday in a seminar on the Soviet Jewish immigration into occupied Palestinian land.

The seminar was held as part of the activities of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences' second cultural week at Yarmouk University.

Director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs Dr. Ahmad Qatani said the Zionist ideology is based on three principles: Jewish immigration to Palestine, occupying lands, and evicting Palestinians from their lands.

Qatani said that the reverse Jewish immigration from the occupied territories to Western countries caused anxiety in Israel which is now encouraging the immigration of Jews from Africa and Eastern Europe.

Political scientist Dr. Labib

Hashem Khreisat
JPA signs cooperation accord with Egypt

CAIRO (Petra) — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) and the Egyptian Press Association Wednesday concluded an agreement paving the way for bilateral cooperation. The associations agreed on a timetable to implement the agreement which will be reviewed every year.

The agreement, which was signed by JPA President Hashem Khreisat and his Egyptian counterpart Makram Mohammad Makram, came at the end of a 10-day visit to Egypt by Khreisat, who held talks with association and government officials in Cairo. Talks dealt with cooperation between Jordan and Egypt in information and media affairs. Khreisat toured several press and information agencies and services.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two sides will exchange expertise and hold discussions on issues related to journalists and the media and will organise joint seminars and exhibitions. They will exchange publications and pamphlets and hold consultations on matters related to journalism, the Arab Nation and the associations' activities. They also agreed to exchange visits in accordance with a fixed timetable.

The two sides agreed that they will provide all possible facilities for visiting journalists from either country.

SOS mothers honoured

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the occasion of Mother's Day, the Plaza Hotel in Amman, invited Tuesday all SOS mothers and children for lunch at the hotel. A special programme was arranged in cooperation with the SOS Village administration that included special performances prepared by the children, who also gave presents to their mothers that were especially made by them in the SOS Club and SOS KG.

The mother in the SOS village is one of the main principles of the SOS idea. Each SOS family consists of seven to nine children, boys and girls of various ages who live together as brothers and sisters with their SOS mother.

At the end of the celebration, the village director gave the mothers special presents in appreciation to their continuous efforts in taking care of the children, and in providing them with all that is needed to help them develop into productive members of their country.

Ministers tour Madaba, listen to grievances

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministers of agriculture, culture, labour, and tourism Wednesday toured the Bani Hamideh, Dhiban, Wadi Al Wadi, Al Ajnijeh and Al Bidhan areas south of Amman in the Madaba district to study the economic situation.

The ministers met with local residents who raised the problems of services mainly related to agriculture, roads, livestock and artesian wells. Residents urged the government to help reduce the problem of unemployment by

under the terms of the agreement, the two sides will exchange expertise and hold discussions on issues related to journalists and the media and will organise joint seminars and exhibitions. They will exchange publications and pamphlets and hold consultations on matters related to journalism, the Arab Nation and the associations' activities. They also agreed to exchange visits in accordance with a fixed timetable.

The two sides agreed that they will provide all possible facilities for visiting journalists from either country.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two sides will exchange expertise and hold discussions on issues related to journalists and the media and will organise joint seminars and exhibitions. They will exchange publications and pamphlets and hold consultations on matters related to journalism, the Arab Nation and the associations' activities. They also agreed to exchange visits in accordance with a fixed timetable.

The two sides agreed that they will provide all possible facilities for visiting journalists from either country.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two sides will exchange expertise and hold discussions on issues related to journalists and the media and will organise joint seminars and exhibitions. They will exchange publications and pamphlets and hold consultations on matters related to journalism, the Arab Nation and the associations' activities. They also agreed to exchange visits in accordance with a fixed timetable.

The two sides agreed that they will provide all possible facilities for visiting journalists from either country.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two sides will exchange expertise and hold discussions on issues related to journalists and the media and will organise joint seminars and exhibitions. They will exchange publications and pamphlets and hold consultations on matters related to journalism, the Arab Nation and the associations' activities. They also agreed to exchange visits in accordance with a fixed timetable.

The two sides agreed that they will provide all possible facilities for visiting journalists from either country.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two sides will exchange expertise and hold discussions on issues related to journalists and the media and will organise joint seminars and exhibitions. They will exchange publications and pamphlets and hold consultations on matters related to journalism, the Arab Nation and the associations' activities. They also agreed to exchange visits in accordance with a fixed timetable.

The two sides agreed that they will provide all possible facilities for visiting journalists from either country.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two sides will exchange expertise and hold discussions on issues related to journalists and the media and will organise joint seminars and exhibitions. They will exchange publications and pamphlets and hold consultations on matters related to journalism, the Arab Nation and the associations' activities. They also agreed to exchange visits in accordance with a fixed timetable.

The two sides agreed that they will provide all possible facilities for visiting journalists from either country.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two sides will exchange expertise and hold discussions on issues related to journalists and the media and will organise joint seminars and exhibitions. They will exchange publications and pamphlets and hold consultations on matters related to journalism, the Arab Nation and the associations' activities. They also agreed to exchange visits in accordance with a fixed timetable.

The two sides agreed that they will provide all possible facilities for visiting journalists from either country.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two sides will exchange expertise and hold discussions on issues related to journalists and the media and will organise joint seminars and exhibitions. They will exchange publications and pamphlets and hold consultations on matters related to journalism, the Arab Nation and the associations' activities. They also agreed to exchange visits in accordance with a fixed timetable.

The two sides agreed that they will provide all possible facilities for visiting journalists from either country.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two sides will exchange expertise and hold discussions on issues related to journalists and the media and will organise joint seminars and exhibitions. They will exchange publications and pamphlets and hold consultations on matters related to journalism, the Arab Nation and the associations' activities. They also agreed to exchange visits in accordance with a fixed timetable.

The two sides agreed that they will provide all possible facilities for visiting journalists from either country.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two sides will exchange expertise and hold discussions on issues related to journalists and the media and will organise joint seminars and exhibitions. They will exchange publications and pamphlets and hold consultations on matters related to journalism, the Arab Nation and the associations' activities. They also agreed to exchange visits in accordance with a fixed timetable.

The two sides agreed that they will provide all possible facilities for visiting journalists from either country.

Under the terms of the

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1974

جordan Times جريدة عربية مستقلة تصدر باللغة الإنجليزية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation.

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 667171/6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661232

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Example of Namibia

THE U.N. brokered birth of independent Namibia brings to an end the era of formal colonialism in Africa and the beginning of a new chapter of hope, freedom and self-determination across not only Africa but also the rest of the world. Seen in the vein, the victory of the people of Namibia is a victory for all mankind and deserves to be celebrated by all nations. To underscore the universality of the Namibian triumph, many world leaders and statesmen have taken part in the independence celebrations in Windhoek, the capital of free and independent Namibia. Yet before the sun has set on Africa's last colony much blood had been spilled. Suffice to recall the 23-year-old guerrilla struggle stubbornly waged by South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) against Pretoria. This hard-won independence took a heavy toll on the lives and property of the Namibian people who maintained their war of independence against great and formidable odds. The perseverance of the Namibian people and the nations of the world that stood by them is an example to emulate and a precedent for other peoples of the world that are still denied their inalienable right to self-determination and statehood. As is well known, the road to freedom and self-determination does not end with the formal declaration of independence and statehood. Unfortunately, we live in a world that is full of situations where external colonialism has at times been replaced by internal oppression and the frustration of the continuing process of development. The only time countries old or new can earn their real independence is when they continue to uphold the basic tenets of the right to self-determination by exercising parliamentary democracy and pluralism. Namibia, like many young countries of the world, has a long way before it can consolidate its newly-won freedom and independence. There are many hard core economic and domestic political problems that await peaceful and democratic resolution. One can be sure that having invested so much and for so long to earn their independence and freedom from external colonialism, the Namibian people would not hesitate to invest heavily in preservation of their freedom. Fortunately for Namibia it can draw heavily on the experiences of other nations in the developing world which had fallen prey to domestic tyranny and oppression in the wake of the formal end of alien rule and domination. Namibia can and will be a shining example of how a young country that has won its freedom and independence was able to sustain them with equal vigour and passion.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Wednesday urged the international community to end Israel's occupation of Arab territories and end Zionism's presence in the Arab land. The paper recalled that the United Nations which represents the international community had earlier declared Zionism to be a form of racism which is being opposed by all nations of the world. It said that the Palestinian people, through their continued uprising, are now involved in ending one form of racism represented in Zionism's presence on Arab territory. The paper said that the Palestinians are not only struggling for freedom but also trying to rid the world of racism and racist policies. The paper said that by ending Israeli occupation of Arab land in Palestine, the international community will be helping to achieve peace in the Middle East which is badly needed for the people of this region. March 21, marks the anniversary of the United Nations declaration of the fight against racism and all forms of injustice, the paper noted. It said that such anniversary should prompt nations of the world to rid the globe of the last remnants of racism.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises Britain for its behaviour of the execution of a British-Israeli spy in Baghdad. Tareq Massarweh says that the Arabs and not Britain should show anger and disgust, because Britain has tried to endanger Arab security by planting spies in our midst. The writer says Britain has launched aggression and exposed its hostility towards the Arab not only through the spy affair but also through its aid to world Zionism under the British mandate in Palestine and through lack of any British condemnation of Israel's continued barbarism and killings of innocent children in Palestine. The writer notes that Britain was proved irresponsible and irrational in its behaviour by its friends and allies in the European Community which have refused to join in imposing sanctions on Iraq, as London had demanded in retaliation against the execution of the spy. He says that Iraq executed Bazofit not because he was a journalist but because he was a spy, sent by Britain and Israel to steal secrets and endanger Iraq's security. He says that the storm raised by Britain over the affair has clearly backfired and could not serve imperialist interests.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the Arabs can negotiate peace with Israel only when they are strong enough to counter its force and when they are united and determined to carry out collective action. The paper said that all Israel wants is to impose a peace of its own making and one that can serve its own purpose. The on going development of a multi-head rockets capable of carrying nuclear bombs in cooperation with South Africa, points only to one thing: that Israel wants to impose its terms on the Arabs, said the paper. It is regrettable, said the paper, that some Arabs are deceived by a number of statements by Israeli leaders and are under the false impression that Israel and world Zionism want to have peace with the Arab Nation. As a long as the Israeli are amassing weapons of all kinds and refusing to recognise the rights of the Palestinians, said the paper, the Arab Nation can never dream of having a lasting and just peace with the Jewish state.

Medical care as a political weapon in Gaza

By Martin Rubenberg

MEDICAL care has been viewed through the ages as a humane and beneficial enterprise, but in reality, to a greater or lesser degree, it has been an instrument of political control. The ability to provide medical care and the power to withhold it has evolved into a strategic and tactical weapon of political and "low intensity" warfare, and nowhere in the world is this better illustrated than in the Gaza Strip in the context of the intifada.

The Gaza Strip is an area of approximately 350 sq. km., bordered on the north by the Erez checkpoint (Israel), on the south by the Rafah checkpoint (Egypt), on the west by the Mediterranean and on the east by the Negev Desert (Israel). Residing in this area are approximately 700,000 Palestinians, 2,000 Israeli settlers and an undetermined number of Israeli troops (estimated to vary between 7,000 and 25,000 at any particular time). Approximately 50 per cent of the land area has been confiscated by Israel for settlements, "nature reserves", "conservation areas" and "military" requirements. The Palestinian population density in the remaining area is thus 4,000 people per square kilometre, one of the highest in the world, and by comparison, 20 times greater than that of Israel.

Water allocation and usage are controlled by the Israeli authorities. Seventy five per cent of the total water resources go to 2,000 Israeli settlers and only 25 per cent to the 700,000 Palestinian Gazans. Less than a quarter of the Palestinian population has

running water in their homes. There is no sewage system in any of the eight refugee camps (Jabaliya, Beach Camp, Nuseirat, Bureij, Deir Al Balah, Khan Yunis, Mughazi and Rafah), home to over 250,000 people. Raw sewage runs through the streets and alleys of the camps. In Gaza city, storm drainage is inadequate with the result that after heavy rains many streets are impassable for several days due to sewage backup and the creation of fetid pools. Solid waste collection and disposal, a municipal function, is inadequate due to funding controls by the occupation authority, erratic at best and further complicated by curfews.

The birth rate in Gaza is one of the world's highest. The best estimates are in the range of 50 live births per 1,000 people per year. Two factors will probably drive this figure higher: 60 per cent of the population is under 20 and thus approaching marriage and child-bearing, and they have lived for two years under a constant 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. curfew.

The combination of high population density, limited water availability, open sewers and inadequate garbage disposal render the population highly subject to viral, bacterial and parasitic contagion, with resultant high levels of respiratory and intestinal diseases and generalized debility.

Although no exact figures are

tabulated for the Gaza Strip population, the best estimates reveal that between 30 to 50 infant deaths occur during the first year of life per 1,000 live births. This rate is obscenely high when compared to an infant mortality rate of 10.7 in Israel (by official 1987 statistics).

The figures that I have been able to obtain indicate that approximately 80 per cent of the population had some form of medical insurance prior to the

onset of the intifada. During the past two years the cost of medical insurance has doubled and this, combined with the increasing economic deprivation of the community, has markedly decreased the ability of Gazans to afford it. Now less than 40 per cent have any medical coverage.

The birth rate in Gaza is one of the world's highest. The best estimates are in the range of 50 live births per 1,000 people per year. Two factors will probably drive this figure higher: 60 per cent of the population is under 20 and thus approaching marriage and child-bearing, and they have lived for two years under a constant 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. curfew.

Deprived of facilities

There are approximately 500 physicians in the Gaza Strip the majority of whom are employed by government hospitals at a wage of \$500 per month. The physician to population ratio in Gaza is one to 1,400, compared with a physician to population ratio in Israel of one to 400.

In addition to the low number of physicians, there are no specialists or special facilities for thoracic surgery, microsurgery, cardiovascular surgery, neurosurgery, radiation therapy, or pathology. There is no CAT scanner and the few X-ray units are in chronic disrepair and remain as technicians from Tel Aviv refuse to travel to Gaza despite the fact that the X-ray units are under contract warranty. There was no radiology specialist until very recently when a volunteer sent by the Italian government arrived, as did an anaesthesiologist. Shifa

hospital, the largest government hospital, has a 16-20 bed psychiatric ward, but there is no trained psychiatrist to run even this small facility.

Hospitals and their facilities are grossly inadequate to service the population. At present there are only 650 general hospital beds available in all of Gaza, less than one per 1,000. Sanitary conditions in the government hospitals are deplorable. In the past, the Israeli government allocated Gazans approximately 90 beds in Israeli hospitals for the treatment of residents with medical or surgical conditions for which no facilities existed in Gaza. During the past year, this allocation has been reduced to 26.

The vast number of injuries (in the tens of thousands) inflicted during the intifada by the Israeli military totally overwhelmed the already inadequate medical facilities. Injuries such as gunshot wounds, gas inhalation and beatings have to be treated on an outpatient basis.

Deliberate obstruction

The Israeli government and its occupation forces have been methodical in devising ways of inhibiting the growth, development, utilisation and delivery of medical and health care services. Monies necessary for the construction and maintenance of medical facilities are increasingly rationed by the occupying authority. A new building which is to replace the totally inadequate facilities at Shifa Hospital has now been under construction for eight years. The civil administration has stated that this building "will be completed within six

months". During the time I was in Gaza I saw no construction work in progress.

Bureaucratic obstruction is

used to limit medical care. It is illegal to do voluntary work in the Gaza Strip without government approval: an unpaid volunteer must apply for "working papers". He will be asked to produce diplomas, certificates of competence, etc. It takes approximately nine months to process a work permit which is only good for six months. This inhibits volunteer and philanthropic work. Medical care is also limited by the Israeli authorities when they prevent the return of Palestinian physicians who have been trained abroad. A U.S. trained haematologist was told by the Israeli authorities that he could legally enter, but that neither his wife, who was also Palestinian, nor his two-year-old child, could join him in the West Bank. As a result this very competent physician is practicing in Amman.

Radio facilities, including physicians' sleepers, have been banned, making immediate notification of accidents or illness to a hospital or ambulance impossible. The only haematologist in Gaza, who lives in Khan Yunis, has no phone and no healer: he cannot be contacted at home if he is needed.

The absence of adequate services, continuous nightly curfews, frequent 24-hour curfews for days or weeks at a time, military closures and regulations prohibiting Gazans from remaining in Israel overnight, all combine to increase the pain, suffering, debilitation and mortality of Palestinian patients.

How East German journalism turned around

By Fred David

IT IS as if the Pope had stood up and announced: "God? There is no God. There never has been. It has all been a bluff."

Hans Eggert, of the East Berlin Berliner Zeitung newspaper, finds it hard to smile at this joke. The malicious satire is for him reality.

Last year he was suspended from his job because he refused to splash a picture of a third-rank official guest of party boss Erich Honecker across six columns and relegate a story about the Armenian earthquake to two columns further down the page.

The battle about the front page layout went on from mid-day until early evening, just before the paper went to press. Then the verdict came from on high via one of those grey telephones, which always occupied a place on Eggert's desk.

The message came from Joachim Herrmann of the East Berlin communist party (SED) Central Committee, the head of the propaganda and education department, responsible for good public relations for head of state Erich Honecker.

The terse proposal, which was in fact an order, said: "We urgently recommend that you remain with the six-column layout."

The whole system was based on the pyramid: at the top a few who were informed about what was going on, then the semi-informed, then those who were hardly informed at all and finally those who were very badly informed. Eggert does not say to which group he belonged, but it can be guessed.

Months later, at the end of January, the stubborn editor saw the all-powerful Erich Honecker again on East German television, the man who just a little while before had been so concerned, via his intimate aide Herrmann, about the layout of the Berliner Zeitung.

This Erich Honecker was now just a pitiful, doddering old man with the same lifeless eyes, who was hustled into a state police car as an official in a black raincoat.

There is no "God." There never has been. To his own astonishment this realisation hit Eggert like a blow with a club.

Last November, Eggert was reinstated as editor of the Berliner Zeitung, elected by 93 of the 116 members of the paper's staff, including secretaries and messengers.

The old editor, for 20 years slavishly obedient to the Central Committee, has been demoted to dealing with readers' letters.

The whole system was based on the pyramid: at the top a few who were informed about what was

going on, then the semi-informed, then those who were hardly informed at all and finally those who were very badly informed. Eggert does not say to which group he belonged, but it can be guessed.

His ex-boss's office was sealed up every evening, including the filing cabinets, irrespective whether important documents were being safeguarded or not. What was decisive was the impression that they contained secret information. Power was in the hands of people who had information, or professed they had it.

A Berliner Zeitung foreign correspondent reported that until last October all his coverage from non-communist countries was kept in a kind of poison cabinet.

People who toed the party line could only peruse foreign newspapers with the personal approval of the head of department. Apart from senior personnel, it was rare for there to be any changes in the editorial staff.

Sometimes the editor-in-chief let slip a comment of the sort that could be made in the old days.

The tense proposal, which was in fact an order, said: "We urgently recommend that you remain with the six-column layout."

People still support the "working group disclosures," but "our young Trotskyites have also become quiet. Our readers cannot handle more than four critical articles per day."

Eggert has not the slightest idea what will happen to his paper after the East German elections on 18 March. He does not know if he will remain editor-in-chief, what the company's name will be and who will own it.

Eggert's newspaper was the property of the SED — perhaps it is not so any longer? The position changes a hundred times a day. Does the Berliner Zeitung have debts amounting to 20 million marks? Eggert says that is unrealistic, but he does not have a clear overview of the profit and loss account.

Until recently foreign currency earnings have been swallowed up by Zeotrag: Berliner Zeitung was paid the equivalent in East Marks, next to nothing in fact.

Now everyone is talking about market mechanisms, but no-one knows precisely how they work. Eggert said: "The truth is we don't have any contingency plans in the cupboard. We muddle through from day to day."

He believes that Berlin needs a major left-wing newspaper. He gave himself encouragement, saying: "We must tackle things with greater self-confidence."

As a precaution he has taken down the portrait of Lenin that used to hang in his office. The framed picture of the revolutionary is on a pile of newspaper in a corner of the boss's office, readily available if needed.

Gerd Hözel, head of the Berliner Verlag, situated in a multi-storey building in the city centre, is waiting to have his office redecorated. Ernst Thälmann, the Communist Party chief of the 1930s, looked over his shoulder from the wall.

Hözel was given the job of operating the former SED disinformation apparatus a year ago; it is estimated it had a budget of 150 million East Marks annually.

Despite all changes Hözel's empire is still considerable. It includes the Berliner Zeitung with a circulation of 445,000, and ten other newspapers with circulations which excite the envy of Western partners.

The Neue Berliner Illustrierte

has a circulation of 800,000. The moderate, popular paper BZ and Ahend has a circulation of 204,000, and the conservative family magazine Wochenpost prints 1.2 million copies per

week.

The satirical publication Eulenspiegel has a circulation of 500,000, a radio and TV programme magazine 1.5 million copies, the arts publication Magazin 565,000 copies, the women's magazine Fuer Dich 935,000 copies, and the leisure publication Freie Welt 360,000 copies.

The smallest publication, but with a tradition stretching way into the past, is the political magazine Weltwelle with a circulation of 31,000 copies. Just for appearance it seems to be published by the Verlag Carl von Ossietzky & Co. publishing house.

Undaunted, technocrat Gerd Hözel said: "I shall not cut myself off from the SED." But this statement does not mean much in view of the situation in the GDR at present. Just a few days before he had said this the party changed its abbreviation to PDS — Party of Democratic Socialism.

But whether the party is called SED or PDS the days of the East German media giant Berliner Verlag are numbered. It should be broken up. But how?

Suddenly Hözel was in a hurry

and disappeared. His deputy, Lothar Popp, equally a long-serving party man, believes that a joint venture with the Hamburg-based Gruner Jahr publishing organisation has a strong possibility of coming about, but only in the first instance in the harmless radio and TV programme magazines.

Popp said: "We will not surrender more than 49 per cent," but this sounded more the expression of a hope than a demand.

According to Popp West German publishing houses are battering down the comrade deputies' office doors. He pulled a wry face and said they were coming with audacious offers such as "25 per cent for you when the contract is concluded."

Others want to push their own political lines, such as Axel Springer Verlag, which has plenty of clout, and already has great plans for newspapers in Greater Berlin.

But Hözel said that Springer was out of the running as far as Berliner Verlag was concerned.

Berliner Verlag is also giving consideration to Greater Berlin. Using the terminology of West German publishing house managers

people are saying in the Berliner Zeitung that they cannot be easily pushed out of the market.

No modern 'Arabian Nights' tellers

By Stephen Hughes
Reuter

FEZ, Morocco — Arab women authors might be called the Scheherazades of the modern world but they find it tougher than the "Arabian Nights" character to tell their stories in a society still dominated by men.

"Anyway, Scheherazade's tales were probably written by men," said Khadija Thama, who organised the first conference of Arab women authors in Fez earlier this month.

Wassila Tamzali of Algeria, a United Nations educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) specialist on sex discrimination issues, said Arab women had to battle all the way in a society where "inequality is legalised by Islamic laws."

"Not only are they up against traditions of oppression and inequality, but they are also faced by the excesses of (Islamic) fundamentalist movements and intolerance," she told the opening session.

In an interview with Reuters, Tamzali said male prejudice against women was rampant even in the West. The only areas of equality were the media and advertising "because women are great communicators."

She said women authors had an important role to play in combating prejudice and censorship but faced an uphill struggle.

Only three Arab states, she said, had ratified a U.N. convention signed in 1980 to end discrimination against women, "the others say the convention is not universal and they have their own definitions of equality."

Tunisia ratified the convention, Aila Saida, UNESCO women's programme coordinator and the only Tunisian present, said former President Habib Bourguiba was practically the only Arab statesman to champion the secular state and women's emancipation.

"Whatever people say about him now, Bourguiba will always be remembered by women for this," she said.

The Fez conference brought together 30 women from 10 Arab states — novelists, short-story writers and poets. "We are all feminists but it must be stressed we are not against men," said Thama.

A banner outside the conference hall read: "Beside each woman there is a man." And to prove they were not an exclusive group, the organisers invited a dozen men, mostly critics or professors of literature.

The men asked the most questions in the first debate on the agenda — about Aisha Taymouriya, a pioneer Arab woman novelist who wrote in Cairo a century ago.

Syrian Ustaf Idiaby, doyenne of the writers present, has had books translated into 14 languages including Russian and Chinese. She ran a famous literary salon frequented by male and female authors in Damascus in the 1960s.

She told Reuters some of her stories had a political flavour, relating the tribulations of the poor during the revolution against France in Syria. "All women have something important to say about politics."

Soumaya Naamane, the author of a Moroccan best-seller about female sexuality, said the biggest problem facing writers of both sexes in the Arab World was illiteracy.

"No Arab writer can possibly live by his or her pen. Not even Naguib Mahfouz, who had to keep his job as a civil servant although he was a best-seller before he won the Nobel prize."

Mahfouz, an Egyptian, was the first Arab writer to win the Nobel Literature Prize, in 1988.

Aila Saida said: "Illiteracy rates are very high in the Arab World and much higher among women. Traditions are mainly oral, telling tales like Scheherazade."

Scheherazade is the character in the ancient "Arabian Nights" collection of stories who saved her life by enthralling a king with her storytelling.

Female illiteracy is as high as 94 per cent in rural areas of Morocco, according to the local daily newspaper Al Bayane.

Short-story writer Leila Abouzeid, who ran a popular Moroccan radio programme for years, said radio was still the best medium for women. "You can talk to them if they cannot read."

Naamane said the most an Arab author could hope to sell in the region was about 30,000 copies. In Morocco it was between 1,000 and 2,000, but her French-language book on sexuality had sold a record 18,000 copies in the country.

UNRWA — shifting roles and meeting the real needs

UNRWA feature

IN the occupied Gaza Strip, as elsewhere, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) long ago shifted the emphasis of its relief programmes for Palestinian refugees away from basic daily needs — food, shelter, clothing — in favour of long-range human-development activities such as education, training, social programmes for women and young people and self-support schemes designed to enable refugees to move from the welfare roles into useful and productive vocations and trades.

The Palestinian intifada which started in the Gaza Strip in late 1987, and the tightening grip imposed by the Israeli occupation forces in response to it, have changed all that somewhat. To be sure, UNRWA's schools — 146 of them in Gaza for 91,000 pupils — have tried to keep operating throughout the turmoil of the intifada, and UNRWA's Gaza Training Centre, closed for over a year at the beginning of the uprising, recently re-opened and has even been expanded to offer two new courses in physiotherapy and business and office practices.

And UNRWA's health centres in the Gaza Strip — which in "normal" times receive well over a million patient visits a year for basic preventive and mother-and-child health care — have had to cope with thousands of casualties from military action against the intifada. Injuries from army gunfire, beatings, rubber bullets, plastic-coated metal rounds and tear gas totalled more than 34,000.

A graduate in sociology from Egypt's Helwan University, Ahmad Shara' lives in Gaza's Beach Camp and has been employed by UNRWA since September 1985. He is married and comes from a large family of eight brothers and five sisters.

CAIRO — Dr. Mahmoud Sherif has given up the surgeon's scalpel for the formidable challenge of improving the health of Cairo's teeming millions.

"I miss operating, but trying to improve the health of greater Cairo's 12 million residents seems a natural progression from treating an individual patient," said the cancer specialist who became governor of Cairo nearly a year ago.

It is not a task for the faint-hearted. While the city undoubtedly has its own very special charm, daily life for the poorer Cairene is often bedevilled by overcrowding, congested traffic, a yellow smog composed of dust and car exhaust as well as unrelenting noise.

There have been major improvements over the past decade — the streets are cleaner, and traffic moves, albeit slowly, through a network of new arterial highways and the telephones do work. Waste water flooding is also less widespread.

But residents say air and noise pollution is getting worse.

Sherif recognises that much remains to be done, and he took on the job in April last year with an urban optimism and a clear sense of priorities.

He heads a staff of some 23,000, divided into five city re-

gions and 17 districts with an annual budget of some 800 million Egyptian pounds (\$300 million).

"In my personal view it is not as much a matter of money as resource allocation and personnel management," he said.

His first priority is to put solid roofs over the heads of the poor, along with power and running water.

Some 6,000 low-income families — roughly 30,000 people — join the queue for new homes in Cairo each year.

Sherif's strategy is to build new housing complexes in which the homes are made available at actual cost, with repayments over 30 years at an interest of five per cent.

That means a low-income family will pay some 40 to 60 Egyptian pounds (\$15 to 22) a month to own a small flat.

Some of the new housing takes the form of satellite towns, deliberately designed to reduce inner city congestion by drawing people out of the city's Dickensian tenement areas.

By 1992, Sherif hopes to have completed 120,000 low-income flats in four major housing estates in greater Cairo and providing homes for more than 620,000 people.

His second priority has been to reduce raw sewage off the streets by nearly doubling the capacity of the existing city sewage network to handle 3.8 million cubic metres

in the Gaza Strip from the beginning of the uprising in December 1987 through the end of December 1989. UNRWA health centres are staying open round-the-clock to deal with the casualties, and UNICEF has helped UNRWA to set up physiotherapy clinics to rehabilitate the wounded.

The intifada has also given renewed importance to UNRWA's welfare programme, part of the Agency's range of relief and social services to refugees. Economic hardship — refugees cut off from their jobs by strikes, travel restrictions and frequent and often lengthy curfews on camps, towns and villages — has revived the general demand for food and other welfare assistance from UNRWA.

This has put great pressure on the UNRWA workers on the "front lines" in the refugee community: the social workers who must hear, review and help decide on pleas for assistance from a refugee population — their own friends and neighbours — who are under ever greater distress. It is a difficult job which dedicated UNRWA social workers like Ahmad Hasan Shara', pictured here going about his work on an "average" day recently, undertake willingly as part of their responsibility to their fellow refugees.

A graduate in sociology from Egypt's Helwan University, Ahmad Shara' lives in Gaza's Beach Camp and has been employed by UNRWA since September 1985. He is married and comes from a large family of eight brothers and five sisters.

CAIRO — Dr. Mahmoud Sherif has given up the surgeon's scalpel for the formidable challenge of improving the health of Cairo's teeming millions.

"I miss operating, but trying to improve the health of greater Cairo's 12 million residents seems a natural progression from treating an individual patient," said the cancer specialist who became governor of Cairo nearly a year ago.

It is not a task for the faint-hearted.

While the city undoubtedly has its own very special charm, daily life for the poorer Cairene is often bedevilled by overcrowding, congested traffic, a yellow smog composed of dust and car exhaust as well as unrelenting noise.

There have been major improvements over the past decade — the streets are cleaner, and traffic moves, albeit slowly, through a network of new arterial highways and the telephones do work. Waste water flooding is also less widespread.

But residents say air and noise pollution is getting worse.

Sherif recognises that much remains to be done, and he took on the job in April last year with an urban optimism and a clear sense of priorities.

He heads a staff of some 23,000, divided into five city re-

gions and 17 districts with an annual budget of some 800 million Egyptian pounds (\$300 million).

"In my personal view it is not as much a matter of money as resource allocation and personnel management," he said.

His first priority is to put solid roofs over the heads of the poor, along with power and running water.

Some 6,000 low-income families — roughly 30,000 people — join the queue for new homes in Cairo each year.

Sherif's strategy is to build new housing complexes in which the homes are made available at actual cost, with repayments over 30 years at an interest of five per cent.

That means a low-income family will pay some 40 to 60 Egyptian pounds (\$15 to 22) a month to own a small flat.

Some of the new housing takes the form of satellite towns, deliberately designed to reduce inner city congestion by drawing people out of the city's Dickensian tenement areas.

By 1992, Sherif hopes to have completed 120,000 low-income flats in four major housing estates in greater Cairo and providing homes for more than 620,000 people.

His second priority has been to reduce raw sewage off the streets by nearly doubling the capacity of the existing city sewage network to handle 3.8 million cubic metres

in the Gaza Strip from the beginning of the uprising in December 1987 through the end of December 1989. UNRWA health centres are staying open round-the-clock to deal with the casualties, and UNICEF has helped UNRWA to set up physiotherapy clinics to rehabilitate the wounded.

The intifada has also given renewed importance to UNRWA's welfare programme, part of the Agency's range of relief and social services to refugees. Economic hardship — refugees cut off from their jobs by strikes, travel restrictions and frequent and often lengthy curfews on camps, towns and villages — has revived the general demand for food and other welfare assistance from UNRWA.

This has put great pressure on the UNRWA workers on the "front lines" in the refugee community: the social workers who must hear, review and help decide on pleas for assistance from a refugee population — their own friends and neighbours — who are under ever greater distress. It is a difficult job which dedicated UNRWA social workers like Ahmad Hasan Shara', pictured here going about his work on an "average" day recently, undertake willingly as part of their responsibility to their fellow refugees.

A graduate in sociology from Egypt's Helwan University, Ahmad Shara' lives in Gaza's Beach Camp and has been employed by UNRWA since September 1985. He is married and comes from a large family of eight brothers and five sisters.

CAIRO — Dr. Mahmoud Sherif has given up the surgeon's scalpel for the formidable challenge of improving the health of Cairo's teeming millions.

"I miss operating, but trying to improve the health of greater Cairo's 12 million residents seems a natural progression from treating an individual patient," said the cancer specialist who became governor of Cairo nearly a year ago.

It is not a task for the faint-hearted.

While the city undoubtedly has its own very special charm, daily life for the poorer Cairene is often bedevilled by overcrowding, congested traffic, a yellow smog composed of dust and car exhaust as well as unrelenting noise.

There have been major improvements over the past decade — the streets are cleaner, and traffic moves, albeit slowly, through a network of new arterial highways and the telephones do work. Waste water flooding is also less widespread.

But residents say air and noise pollution is getting worse.

Sherif recognises that much remains to be done, and he took on the job in April last year with an urban optimism and a clear sense of priorities.

He heads a staff of some 23,000, divided into five city re-

gions and 17 districts with an annual budget of some 800 million Egyptian pounds (\$300 million).

"In my personal view it is not as much a matter of money as resource allocation and personnel management," he said.

His first priority is to put solid roofs over the heads of the poor, along with power and running water.

Some 6,000 low-income families — roughly 30,000 people — join the queue for new homes in Cairo each year.

Sherif's strategy is to build new housing complexes in which the homes are made available at actual cost, with repayments over 30 years at an interest of five per cent.

That means a low-income family will pay some 40 to 60 Egyptian pounds (\$15 to 22) a month to own a small flat.

Some of the new housing takes the form of satellite towns, deliberately designed to reduce inner city congestion by drawing people out of the city's Dickensian tenement areas.

By 1992, Sherif hopes to have completed 120,000 low-income flats in four major housing estates in greater Cairo and providing homes for more than 620,000 people.

His second priority has been to reduce raw sewage off the streets by nearly doubling the capacity of the existing city sewage network to handle 3.8 million cubic metres

in the Gaza Strip from the beginning of the uprising in December 1987 through the end of December 1989. UNRWA health centres are staying open round-the-clock to deal with the casualties, and UNICEF has helped UNRWA to set up physiotherapy clinics to rehabilitate the wounded.

The intifada has also given renewed importance to UNRWA's welfare programme, part of the Agency's range of relief and social services to refugees. Economic hardship — refugees cut off from their jobs by strikes, travel restrictions and frequent and often lengthy curfews on camps, towns and villages — has revived the general demand for food and other welfare assistance from UNRWA.

This has put great pressure on the UNRWA workers on the "front lines" in the refugee community: the social workers who must hear, review and help decide on pleas for assistance from a refugee population — their own friends and neighbours — who are under ever greater distress. It is a difficult job which dedicated UNRWA social workers like Ahmad Hasan Shara', pictured here going about his work on an "average" day recently, undertake willingly as part of their responsibility to their fellow refugees.

A graduate in sociology from Egypt's Helwan University, Ahmad Shara' lives in Gaza's Beach Camp and has been employed by UNRWA since September 1985. He is married and comes from a large family of eight brothers and five sisters.

CAIRO — Dr. Mahmoud Sherif has given up the surgeon's scalpel for the formidable challenge of improving the health of Cairo's teeming millions.

"I miss operating, but trying to improve the health of greater Cairo's 12 million residents seems a natural progression from treating an individual patient," said the cancer specialist who became governor of Cairo nearly a year ago.

It is not a task for the faint-hearted.

While the city undoubtedly has its own very special charm, daily life for the poorer Cairene is often bedevilled by overcrowding, congested traffic, a yellow smog composed of dust and car exhaust as well as unrelenting noise.

There have been major improvements over the past decade — the streets are cleaner, and traffic moves, albeit slowly, through a network of new arterial highways and the telephones do work. Waste water flooding is also less widespread.

But residents say air and noise pollution is getting worse.

Sherif recognises that much remains to be done, and he took on the job in April last year with an urban optimism and a clear sense of priorities.

He heads a staff of some 23,000, divided into five city re-

gions and 17 districts with an annual budget of some 800 million Egyptian pounds (\$300 million).

"In my personal view it is not as much a matter of money as resource allocation and personnel management," he said.

His first priority is to put solid roofs over the heads of the poor, along with power and running water.

Some 6,000 low-income families — roughly 30,000 people — join the queue for new homes in Cairo each year.

Sherif's strategy is to build new housing complexes in which the homes are made available at actual cost, with repayments over 30 years at an interest of five per cent.

That means a low-income family will pay some 40 to 60 Egyptian pounds (\$15 to 22) a month to own a small flat.

Americans taste European soccer

BUDAPEST (AP) — The World Cup-bound U.S. team got its first taste of European soccer Tuesday, and it was bitter.

The Americans were overwhelmed 2-0 by an inexperienced Hungarian squad that could have won by five or six goals and showed how much the U.S. team must improve before this summer.

"Mistakes were made and when mistakes are made it usually means a goal," said U.S. striker Peter Vermette. "There could have been more."

Tamas Petres and Zsolt Liperger scored in a one-sided game in which the Hungarians used their superior quickness and ball-handling skills to overpower the visitors.

"Their off-the-ball running was what gave us the most difficulty," said U.S. coach Bob Gansler. "What we are here to learn is what we saw tonight — the speed of play is much different in Europe than we are used to."

Gansler said the game was another step in the development of his team as it approaches the 24-nation World Cup finals in Italy that begin in June.

"This is a fact-finding mission to find out what we have to do," he said. "We still have a lot of games to go. We trust that when the time comes we will get it done."

As 15,000 fans triumphantly waved red, white and green flags, the young Hungarian team kept the ball for long stretches in the American half of the field and took advantage of U.S. sloppiness.

The Hungarians, six of whom were playing their inaugural game or the national team, easily could have won by more. One Hungarian shot went off the crossbar and another off the goal post, while several other chances went astray in front of beleaguered U.S. goalie Tony Meola.

Meola, playing in his first game for the national team, took a pass from Robert Jovan six minutes before halftime and scored the first goal from right in front of Meola. U.S. defender Jimmy Banks was beaten on the pass.

Liperger, who like Petres is 21, scored the other goal midway through the second half from 15 metres out after U.S. defender

John Stollmeyer mistimed a header and the ball rolled free to Liperger.

The lackluster U.S. offense, which scored only six goals in eight World Cup qualifying matches last year, did not get a shot on goal until the 35th minute of the game and showed little spark throughout the contest.

The best scoring chance for the Americans came with six minutes remaining when Vermette, who played last year in Raba Eto, Hungary, slammed a free kick that forced a diving save by Hungarian goalie Istvan Brockhanser.

The game was the first of two the U.S. team is playing in Eastern Europe to prepare for the World Cup finals. The Americans, who qualified for the finals for the first time in 40 years, will play at East Germany March 28.

Hungary did not qualify for the World Cup finals and is undergoing a soccer purge. Kalman Meszoly, who coached the national team in the early 1980s, was back in charge for his first game Tuesday and many of the young players were unknown to the crowd.

Fleurian upsets Becker

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — Boris Becker says it's a good time for him to be in a slump.

The second-ranked West German was eliminated by Jean Fleurian 7-6 (7-3), 6-1 in Tuesday's third round of the international players championships.

"I am the kind of player who always was a couple of lows during the year," Becker said. "If they are now, I am glad, because it means they are not going to be during Wimbledon or the French Open."

Fleurian, a Frenchman who is ranked 46th, said Becker appeared to be "sleepy."

"From the beginning I felt he wasn't playing good," Fleurian said. "I had a chance. I knew today was the day to do it, because I knew that tomorrow he'd be good again."

Another upset winner was Javier Sanchez of Spain, who beat no. 4 Brad Gilbert 6-3, 6-7 (14-12), 7-6 (7-4). Gilbert delayed his defeat by surviving five match points, four in the second set.

Top-ranked Ivan Lendl advanced to the fourth round by beating Marcelo Filippini 6-0, 6-2, no. 5 seed Andre Agassi swept Jan Gunnarsson 6-1, 6-2.

Women's seeds advancing to the quarterfinals included no. 1 Gabriela Sabatini, no. 3 Monica Seles and no. 4 Manuela Maleeva.

Sabatini, who has yet to lose a set in nine matches this month, beat Susan Sloane 6-2, 6-2; Seles swept no. 13 Rosalyn Fairbank 6-3, 6-4, and Maleeva eliminated no. 10 Raffaella Reggi 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

Fleurian had trailed Becker 3-1 in the first set Monday when play was suspended because of rain.

"I was supposed to take my plane flight home Monday night, and I was really mad because I didn't make it," the droll Fleurian said Tuesday. "So I made it for tonight. Unfortunately I won, and now I have to cancel it again."

Fleurian said he was being realistic, not pessimistic, in booking a flight before the match.

"When you play Boris, you'd better get ready to go back home."

Fleurian faced three set points when trailing 5-3 in the first set but rallied to win the game. He then broke Becker's serve to reach 5-5, won the final four points in the tiebreaker and captured the second set in just 34 minutes.

The players waited out the rain for six hours Monday before the match was postponed, and Becker said he had trouble regaining his concentration.

"My mind wasn't on the court," Becker said. "I don't know where it was. I'll have to find it."

Fleurian, 24, who has beaten only two other players ranked in the top 20, called it the biggest victory of his career. He is the lowest-ranked player to beat Becker since then-no. 67 Thierry Tulasne, another Frenchman, in May 1988.

Soccer also to be blamed for the Heysel tragedy

BRUSSELS (AP) — The prosecutor in the Heysel riots appeals trial said soccer itself is partly responsible for hooliganism and urged for more penal prosecution of on-field violence, newspapers reported Tuesday.

"Whoever a phenomenon becomes criminal, the authorities must get worried and the public prosecutor must take preventive and — if necessary — repressive measures," prosecutor Oscar Vandemeulebroecke said of violence between players.

The prosecutor is seeking tougher sentences against 10 of 14 convicted Britons, who were given three-year jail terms, half of which were suspended, for their part in the 1985 Heysel stadium riot that killed 39 soccer fans.

He was more lenient for the four convicted fans who came to Brussels for the appeals trial, which started last week. He asked

that their sentence not be increased from what they received after last year's trial.

Vandemeulebroecke claimed that sociological and psychological studies have shown a "direct

link between violence on the field and in the stands."

"Dirtier players should know that there will have to count on more than just sanctions of the soccer federations," he said.

Princess Anne says Olympics too big

WEMLBY, ENGLAND (AP) — The Olympics have become too big for their own good, according to Princess Anne, one of Britain's two international Olympic Committee members.

The Princess, who also is president of both the British Olympic Association and the International Equestrian Federation, said the size of the games is one of the most difficult decisions facing the IOC and other international

bodies.

"The biggest danger to the movement is that it is getting too big in sheer weight of numbers," she said. "Other sports will become more popular in terms of numbers and everyone will want to be involved in the Olympics. Some very hard decision-making will happen very shortly."

The IOC is studying ways of reducing or limiting the size of the Olympics, which are expected to attract more than 10,000 athletes to Barcelona in 1992.

It has barred demonstration sports after the '92 winter and summer games and is expected to announce further restrictions when the 1996 summer Olympics are awarded in September.

Princess Anne, daughter of Queen Elizabeth, made her re-

FOR SALE

— Mitsubishi Lancer, dark blue 1300 CC, good condition JD 5,200 only.
— Nikon F G Camera, zoom, flash, and tripod.
— Sony Stereo Amplifier, Tapedeck 10 band/ ch Equalizer, Compact disk.

Plus a wide variety of original albums on Cassettes and CDS. More information call 679007 Thursday after 2:00 p.m. all day Friday only.

B.M.W 325i SE FOR SALE

Duty unpaid, 1988, right hand drive, four doors, special equipment, dolphin grey, emaculate condition, must be seen to be appreciated, Thursday + Friday opposite the Mill Restaurant between Fifth and Sixth Circles or call Mr. Ghazi 825992.

Will sell to the highest offer.

ATTENTION PLEASE

Welcome to the Bedouin Bazaar where you will get 20% discount on all items. Special offer on handmade Persian Carpets — buy two and get one Rug free.

We also sell: Antiques, Copper, Brass, Silver, Jewellery, Pottery, and all kinds of gifts and souvenirs. LOCATED: next to the American School, Royal Automobile Club-Street.

Tel: 824485 - open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Zurbriggen, Walliser say farewell to skiing

ARE, SWEDEN (AP) — Pirmin Zurbriggen ended his career in the limelight. Maria Walliser snaked out almost unnoticed.

While Swedish newspapers devoted full pages to Zurbriggen's farewell race, Walliser left Sweden for home as any other ski racer after the women's World Cup dowhill finale was scratched because of bad weather.

The two Swiss stars, who won a combined six World Cup overall titles in the 1980s, had no regrets about retiring.

"It's important for me to quit at the top," said Zurbriggen, perhaps the greatest all-rounder in alpine ski history.

He did.

woo the season's last two super G races, including one in Norway a week ago, she finished 11th in his World Cup farewell race.

Walliser, 26, who won virtually everything but an Olympic gold medal in her 11-year career, is looking forward to quit the sport that made her a millionaire.

At last, she'll have more time for golf, her favorite sport.

"I really don't feel sad because I know exactly what I'm doing."

"I think I was professional until the end of my career."

There was talk about Walliser getting into acting after the World Championships in 1987 and 1989. Her attractive looks and sometimes agonizing openness made her a media darling.

"I think I could get into acting," Walliser said. "That would be a really different life.

"But first of all I want to do

some promotion for some products. Maybe not too near ski racing. I want to quit really. You will see what's going on."

Stenmark, the swede who is the greatest slalom and GS skier ever with a record 86 World Cup wins and three overall crowns, retired last year.

Zurbriggen tied Thoni's all-time record before the Scandinavian swing of the World Cup season, clinching his fourth overall in the 1980s.

He won eight World Cup specialty titles in his career in addition to one Olympic gold medal and four world championships, including one combined.

For Zurbriggen, who also won the overall in 1984, 1987 and 1988, the 1987 world at Crans-Montana were the highlight of his career. Crans-Montana is not far away from Saas-Almagell, Zurbriggen's hometown.

"We just had one week together after we were married," he said. "But we'll have plenty of time now."

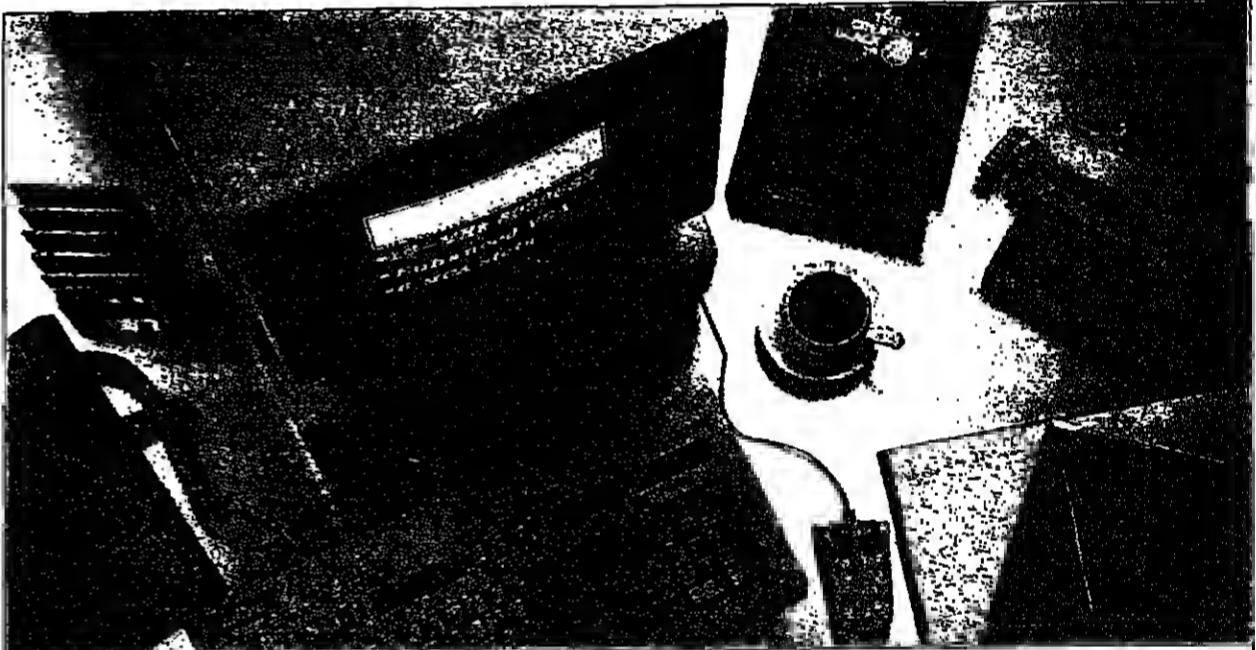
Before the honeymoon, Zurbriggen is planning a farewell race at Crans-Montana, Switzerland.

Several greats, including Franz Klammer, Gustavo Thoni and Alberto Tomba, are expected to attend.

"Alberto Tomba (of Italy) missed so many races and Marc Girardelli has been out since December," Zurbriggen said.

Girardelli, a three-time overall champion from Austria who competes for Luxembourg, sustained a hip and kidney bruising in a fall during a super G race in Italy before Christmas.

Total Flexible Solutions



Mitac. The intelligent solution to today's contemporary computer needs.

Sophisticated yet simple. Totally flexible yet amazingly affordable.

The kind of solution that single PC users, local area networks and Xenix multi users have been waiting for. Available in 286 and 386 models - XT, AT, PS/2 compatibles and multi users.

And with the added professional advantage of Comcent's excellent support and maintenance facilities.

Flexible enough?

MITAC

Comcent Trading and Contracting Co. 3rd circle, Prince Mohammad St. Phone 644246/7

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

WASHINGTON SENATORS LOSE AGAIN!

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
* 7 5 4
* Q 8 7
* 3 6 4
* 7 5 4 3

WEST **EAST**
* Q 10 9 6 2 * K 8
* 10 6 3 * 19 5 4 2
* 10 9 7 * K 5 2
* 9 6 * 10 8 2

SOUTH
* A 3
* A K
* A Q 8 2
* A K Q J

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 3 NT
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♦

In the inaugural bridge match between the two legislative chambers, the House handily defeated the Senate. Early next year, the winners will play the British Parliament in the first Transatlantic Governmental Challenge. Almost all the players on both teams were Republicans. We are not sure whether an infusion of new Democrat blood in the Senate would reverse the outcome of next year's match.

Both teams declared three oo

RAINBOW

Tel: 625155

RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

Cinema

CONCORD



OVER BOARD

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

PHILADELPHIA

Tel: 634144

DESTROYER

Performances: 3:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15

NIJOUN

Tel: 675571

NIJOUN

John Travolta
Olivia Newton-John

GREASE is the word

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 1:00 a.m.

PLAZA

Namibia becomes independent

WINDHOEK, Namibia (Agencies) — The World's newest nation celebrated its birth Wednesday with all-night parties, tribal dancing and parades before swearing in ex-guerrilla leaders as ministers of the new government.

Some 25,000 Namibians cheered wildly at a sports stadium as the South African flag was lowered in Africa's last colony early Wednesday. It was replaced by the red, green and blue banner of newly independent Namibia.

"Africa's last colony is from this hour liberated," President Sam Nujoma said in his inaugural address.

Moments earlier, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar had sworn in the former guerrilla leader who fought for 23 years to end rule by neighboring South Africa.

As a fireworks display lit the sky, Namibians began impromptu parties throughout the capital of Windhoek and car horns blared through the night.

"This is beautiful. We are all thrilled. We have waited so long for this day," said Olga Basson as she watched the gold and red fireworks.

President F.W. de Klerk of South Africa, who held his hand across his heart as he watched his nation's flag being lowered, called for an end to violence in southern Africa.

"I stand here tonight as an advocate for peace. The season for violence has passed for Namibia and the whole of southern Africa," De Klerk said.

"It is above all a moment for hope. That the future of this vast and beautiful land will bring peace," he said.

The new government gathered Wednesday morning at the legislative building on a Windhoek hilltop to be sworn in and become the new National Assembly.

Forty-one of the 72 members belong to the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), the guerrilla movement that waged a 23-year war against South African rule and then won last November's U.N.-supervised elections.

Seven parties, ranging from

Namibian government sworn in

WINDHOEK (AP) — Former guerrilla leaders were sworn in Wednesday as ministers of the government after the world's newest nation celebrated its birth with all-night parties, tribal dancing and parades.

Hans Berger, chief justice of the supreme court, swore in members of the 72-member constituent assembly that wrote the Western-style constitution at the republic's National Assembly later Wednesday.

U.S.-educated Moise Tjitebero, a member of the dominant South-West Africa People's Organisation, was elected speaker of the house. A coat of arms was adopted, showing the nation's flag, flanked by two oxen on their hind legs, with an eagle above, and the Namibian motto: "Unity, Liberty, Justice."

hope the new nation would solve past racial differences and overcome the economic and political problems facing many poor African nations.

"Other African countries have had disappointments after independence. I hope we have learned from those economic and political mistakes," said students Simon Ekanjo.

Some whites expressed concern about the new black government, but said they wanted to support the new nation.

South Africa agreed in December 1988 to grant independence to Namibia under a regional peace treaty that also calls for Cuba to withdraw its 50,000 soldiers from Angola by mid-1991.

South Africa retains control Walvis Bay, Namibia's only deep-water port. The city was a British colony before Germany occupied Namibia. South Africa says the port is part of its territory, but Namibia is demanding that Walvis Bay be incorporated into its boundaries.

The U.N. chief said that despite frustrations and setbacks, the process had "fully vindicated the repudiate and effectiveness of the United Nations". U.N. supervision of the transition began in near-disaster" last April when hundreds of SWAPO fighters were killed by South African troops.

Peres de Cuellar hailed the

successful agreement on a constitution in an atmosphere of reconciliation as "a remarkable lesson to the whole world in the effectiveness of democratic procedures."

"Few nations will have reached independence with the degree and breadth of international goodwill and support which Namibia now enjoys," he said.

A cheer went up from the crowd of 20,000 when he said he looked forward to Namibia joining the U.N. as its 160th member.

He also promised to organise an international conference to pledge funds for the new state.

Nujoma's first speech as president avoided bitterness and praised De Klerk for his "act of statesmanship" in finally giving Namibia its freedom and expressing the hope for similar developments in South Africa itself.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Tuesday congratulated Namibia on its independence and invited the country to become the 51st member of the group.

Namibian independence was the "crowning of decades of unremitting struggle by the OAU against colonialism and racism", OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim said in a message to Nujoma.

"The OAU looks forward to welcoming the new nation in its fold as the 51st member of the organisation," he said.

Lithuanians flee Soviet military

VILNIUS, USSR (AP) — Algirdas Brazauskas broke ranks with the Red Army and joined hundreds of other Lithuanians who deserted after their Baltic republic declared itself independent.

"They accused us of being saboteurs," he said Tuesday, one day after walking out on his unit near Moscow. "They called us Germans and Nazis."

"There is no turning back now," said his friend, 19-year-old Valdas Grigalunas, who had just left his post with the northern fleet.

For the hundreds of Lithuanian youths who have fled the Soviet military in the 10 days since their small republic declared itself sovereign, there indeed seems to be no turning back.

The new Lithuanian government is backing the youths' decisions to return home and trying to negotiate their security, said Deputy Prime Minister Kazimiera Motieka.

But the Soviet military has said it will use force to ship the deserters back to their units — and presumably military justice — if the conflict is not resolved by Saturday.

On Tuesday night, police were seen checking the passports of young men boarding the train from Moscow to Lithuania, apparently looking for deserters.

Bernatavicius and Grigalunas were interviewed as they debated signing up for a new Lithuanian Volunteer Force, which officials said would be used as customs and frontier guards.

Grigalunas was still officially

on leave, but said he was not likely to leave his homeland to return to harsh life in the Soviet Armed Forces, which Lithuania considers an army of occupation.

The small Baltic republic, which declared its independence on March 11, was quiet Tuesday. There was no sign of Soviet troop movements.

Officials said there were no signs of an economic blockade in retaliation for the declaration of independence and no violence that might be related to sovereignty.

"We are still receiving gas and oil," Lithuania's two most critical imports from the Soviet Union, said Mrs. Pruskiene, an economist who was elected Prime Minister Saturday.

On Wednesday, the legislature began a debate on defining the structure of its new government and specifically whether to trim the number of ministries to 40 to 15 or 21.

Lithuanian officials said Tuesday to set up border and customs forces to show the world's governments that Lithuania controls its territory and should be formally recognized as independent.

So far, no foreign country has officially recognised Lithuania as independent and Moscow has warned it will not tolerate a change in customs enforcement at the border.

The Soviet Union has tens and perhaps hundreds of thousands of troops stationed in Lithuania, whose Baltic port of Klaipeda is extremely valuable to the Soviet navy.

Signs in the capital of Vilnius

said the Sajudis People's Front, the nationalist movement that dominates the Lithuanian government, was banding registration of men between ages of 19 and 40 who were ready to serve voluntarily in defence of the state.

Both men and women responded, crowding the tiny office to fill in applications stating their military experience and availability on short notice.

"I just want to do some good for free Lithuania," said a woman about 30 years old.

Many of the volunteers are former Soviet soldiers who "say they consider themselves Lithuanian and want to serve in the Lithuanian army" said Ludwiga Pociuniene, who was taking applications in another office at the parliament building.

She dug out one letter written by a soldier from Kanous, who said he fled his army unit in Moscow after being beaten senseless and hospitalised. He was later refused care for severe headaches.

The youth said his officer told him, "Lithuanians must hang themselves."

Pociuniene said the Lithuanian police were under great pressure from Moscow to arrest the deserters, but the new Lithuanian parliament has asked them not to obey the Kremlin command.

In February, even before independence, Lithuania's parliament ordered state prosecutors to prevent the transfer and filing of charges against Lithuanian soldiers who had to escape unbearable conditions in the Soviet Union.

Hundreds of protesters demanding a general presidential election tried to stop deputies on

Lithuania protests Soviet army exercises

VILNIUS, USSR (Agencies) — The Supreme Council of Lithuania opened debate Wednesday on the structure of its new government after sending a protest to the Kremlin against Soviet military manoeuvres in the Baltic Republic.

Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Pruskiene sent a telegram to President Mikhail Gorbachev Tuesday night complaining that the recent military operations were creating unnecessary tensions.

"The people of Lithuania are deeply disturbed about the actions of the Soviet Armed Forces. The intense mobilisation of armoured vehicles and tanks, the intensified flights of military aircraft, the paratroopers involved in intelligence activities," she said in the cable.

Mrs. Pruskiene said the Lithuanian parliament had not been notified in advance of the manoeuvres, nor on the status of the Soviet army in Lithuania.

"Representatives from USSR ministries and agencies arrive in Lithuania and act without contacting the government of Lithuania," she complained in the telegram addressed to Gorbachev and other top Soviet officials.

In her cable, Mrs. Pruskiene called on the Kremlin to discuss the presence of troops and other issues. "The government is convinced that there is a sound basis for coming to mutually beneficial understanding and for discussing issues of common interest in a calm and rational manner," she said.

The small Baltic republic, which declared its independence on March 11, was quiet Tuesday. There was no sign of Soviet troop movements.

Officials said there were no signs of an economic blockade in retaliation for the declaration of independence and no violence that might be related to sovereignty.

"We are still receiving gas and oil," Lithuania's two most critical imports from the Soviet Union, said Mrs. Pruskiene, an economist who was elected Prime Minister Saturday.

On Wednesday, the legislature began a debate on defining the structure of its new government and specifically whether to trim the number of ministries to 40 to 15 or 21.

Lithuanian officials said Tuesday to set up border and customs forces to show the world's governments that Lithuania controls its territory and should be formally recognized as independent.

So far, no foreign country has officially recognised Lithuania as independent and Moscow has warned it will not tolerate a change in customs enforcement at the border.

The Soviet Union has tens and perhaps hundreds of thousands of troops stationed in Lithuania, whose Baltic port of Klaipeda is extremely valuable to the Soviet navy.

Signs in the capital of Vilnius

said the Sajudis People's Front, the nationalist movement that dominates the Lithuanian government, was banding registration of men between ages of 19 and 40 who were ready to serve voluntarily in defence of the state.

Both men and women responded, crowding the tiny office to fill in applications stating their military experience and availability on short notice.

"I just want to do some good for free Lithuania," said a woman about 30 years old.

Many of the volunteers are former Soviet soldiers who "say they consider themselves Lithuanian and want to serve in the Lithuanian army" said Ludwiga Pociuniene, who was taking applications in another office at the parliament building.

She dug out one letter written by a soldier from Kanous, who said he fled his army unit in Moscow after being beaten senseless and hospitalised. He was later refused care for severe headaches.

The youth said his officer told him, "Lithuanians must hang themselves."

Pociuniene said the Lithuanian police were under great pressure from Moscow to arrest the deserters, but the new Lithuanian parliament has asked them not to obey the Kremlin command.

In February, even before independence, Lithuania's parliament ordered state prosecutors to prevent the transfer and filing of charges against Lithuanian soldiers who had to escape unbearable conditions in the Soviet Union.

Hundreds of protesters demanding a general presidential election tried to stop deputies on

COLUMN

Road signs warn of passing frogs

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — The road administration will erect traffic signs to warn drivers of a frog crossing. Swedish television has said. The signs will stay up for a few summer weeks, when frogs outside the town of Sjosa in the province of Sormland leave their winter nests on one side of the road and cross over to mate in Sjosa Bay. The frogs usually take a rest on the warm road to catch insects and many get run over by cars, television reported.

"The minister made it very clear to me that they are hopeful that questions involving Lithuania will be handled by dialogue," Baker said at an impromptu joint news conference afterwards.

"He said once again, as he has done before, that force would not be the solution to the problem as far as the Soviet Union is concerned."

Washington's concern about the situation in Lithuania and its fellow Baltic republics of Latvia and Estonia mounted after Gorbachev gave his government new powers to reverse Lithuania's declaration of independence.

This was coupled with reports of Soviet troop movements in Lithuania and Soviet military aircraft flying over Lithuania cities.

But Shevardnadze said there had been no unusual deployment of Soviet forces and Baker said there was "no reason that we know of not to take him at his word."

In Stockholm Baltic exile groups and opposition parties Tuesday demanded that Sweden rally around Lithuania's struggle to break away from the Soviet Union.

Conservative party leader Carl Bildt said Moscow's threats against Lithuania's declaration of independence made it imperative that Sweden show clear political support for Vilnius.

"Sweden should send an official emissary to Lithuania to show where our sympathies lie," Bildt told Reuters.

In Paris Francois Mitterrand and Vaclav Havel, the presidents of France and Czechoslovakia, Tuesday appealed for a peaceful solution to Lithuania's proclamation of independence from the Soviet Union.

Speaking at a joint news conference, both heads of state said they recognised Lithuania's right to self-determination but urged both Moscow and the newly-elected leaders of the Soviet republic to settle their differences at the negotiating table.

"We hope both sides will find a peaceful solution," Havel said at the close of a two-day state visit to France.

Indian troops stage raid in search of Kashmiri rebels

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Government troops conducted overnight raids in search of Muslim guerrillas following the assassination of an intelligence officer and three state government employees, witnesses said Wednesday.

The Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, which has led the Muslim campaign for independence, claimed responsibility for all four killings in telephone calls to local reporters.

An around-the-clock curfew was re-imposed following Tuesday's assassinations. On Wednesday, paramilitary troops patrolled the deserted streets of Srinagar, the centre of the movement for Kashmir's secession from predominantly Hindu India.

Mosques blared calls for people to awaken and take to the streets in an effort to thwart the searches.

In Lahore, Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto Tuesday accused India of fuelling problems in Indian Kashmir by trying to stamp out a Muslim revolt through force of arms.

Speaking at a joint news conference, both heads of state said they recognised Lithuania's right to self-determination but urged both Moscow and the newly-elected leaders of the Soviet republic to settle their differences at the negotiating table.

In his election, Lee the only candidate, said he would "devote my utmost endeavours to gather all forces to strive for constitutional democracy, economic progress and social stability in the coming six years."

But he said he would wait until he is sworn in on May 20 to make concrete proposals.

The statement came one day after Lee, the 67-year-old chairman of the ruling Nationalist Party, responded to the growing pressure for democratic reform by agreeing to an emergency conference to discuss changing the political system.

The National Assembly that elected Lee is dominated by elderly deputies who have not faced re-election since the ruling Nationalist tied China in 1949 after their defeat in the Chinese civil war.

The National Assembly that elected Lee is dominated by elderly deputies who have not faced re-election since the ruling Nationalist tied China in 1949 after their defeat in the Chinese civil war.

Some factories and shops in the south-eastern industrial cities of East London and Port Elizabeth stayed away from work for the stay away, and police said a crowd of students set fire to a school in Natal.

Black schoolchildren in some areas attacked schools to enforce the stay away, and police said a crowd of students set fire to a school in Natal.

Some factories and shops in the south-eastern industrial cities of East London and Port Elizabeth stayed away from work for the stay away, and police said a crowd of students set fire to a school in Natal.

Black schoolchildren in some areas attacked schools to enforce the stay away, and police said a crowd of students set fire to a school in Natal.

Some factories and shops in the south-eastern industrial cities of East London and Port Elizabeth stayed away from work for the stay away, and police said a crowd of students set fire to a school in Natal.

Black schoolchildren in some areas attacked schools to enforce the stay away, and police said a crowd of students set fire to a school in Natal.

Some factories and shops in the south-eastern industrial cities of East London and Port Elizabeth stayed away from work for the stay away, and police said a crowd of students set fire to a school in Natal.

Black schoolchildren in some areas attacked schools to enforce the stay away, and police said a crowd of students set fire to a school in